

# 1920-1929 VACAVILLE

## THE PAST CENTURY



### Little quiet about city's Roaring '20s

By Richard Rieco / Editor & Publisher

**S**ix hundred pipes of various sorts, from the size of a pencil to base pipes seven feet long. There are drums, cymbals, a complete set of chimes, a xylophone and a modulation to imitate human voices."

To a '90s ear, that sounds like the musical backup to a choir of angels. But to a Vacan of the '20s it could have described the noisemakers of celebration, or at least the cacophonous racket of turning wheels and meshing gears in the machines of progress.

It was a decade when Vacaville had countless reasons to toot its own horn. To name a few:

The "modulation" could have replicated the sound of an American flag flapping over a tray of fruit when, on July 3, 1921, Helen Harbison Power sat in the shade of an historic walnut tree and began selling ranch fruit to travelers along the Lincoln Highway. The Nut Tree (See Roaring '20s, Page 6)

The unstoppable motion of progress continued for Vacaville in the 1920s. The fruit industry waned, but not nearly enough for one family to balk at beginning a roadside fruit stand — The Nut Tree — that would continue to grow throughout the following decades. The Bank of Italy came to town, and changing attitudes brought changing styles. Norma Peabody (left), a Vacaville beauty of the '20s, sports the latest hair fashions.

### NOW THERE ARE THREE

**V**acaville growth took a turn in the '20s. For two decades into the 20th century, orchard roots grew deep and fruit was king. But the third decade the city's growth moved above ground, and wings and airships lifted its people above it.

This is Episode Three of The Reporter's 10-month project of reflecting on our community's place in the

20th century.

Published monthly, the series progressively highlights a succeeding decade each month. By December, "Vacaville: The Past Century" will be complete. The popular series is already a collectible. When completed and combined, it will provide a historical overview of the community and the its people over the past 100 years.



### Business boosters

Vacaville had plenty to boast about during the Roaring '20s. / Page 3

### Aviation takes flight

Planes and airports become a part of the fabric of Vacaville. / Page 5

### Nut Tree born

Travel by car means a fledgling roadside business is able to succeed. / Page 11

### Pass the popcorn

Clark Theatre opens for business. / Page 21



# LITHIA TOYOTA OF VACAVILLE

## 1922

The first car radio is  
invented by George Frost.



The **1999 Toyota Solara** SLE features a JBL Premium 3-in-1 ETR/Cassette/CD with 200 watts & 8 speakers in 6 locations.

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For every retail vehicle sold, Lithia will make a donation to local charities or educational institutions to help make our community even better.

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*The Mission of Lithia Automotive Group is to be the best provider of cars, light trucks and related services in the Western United States.*

### VALUES

**People** — Our people are the source for our strength. They provide our corporate intelligence and determine our reputation and vitality.

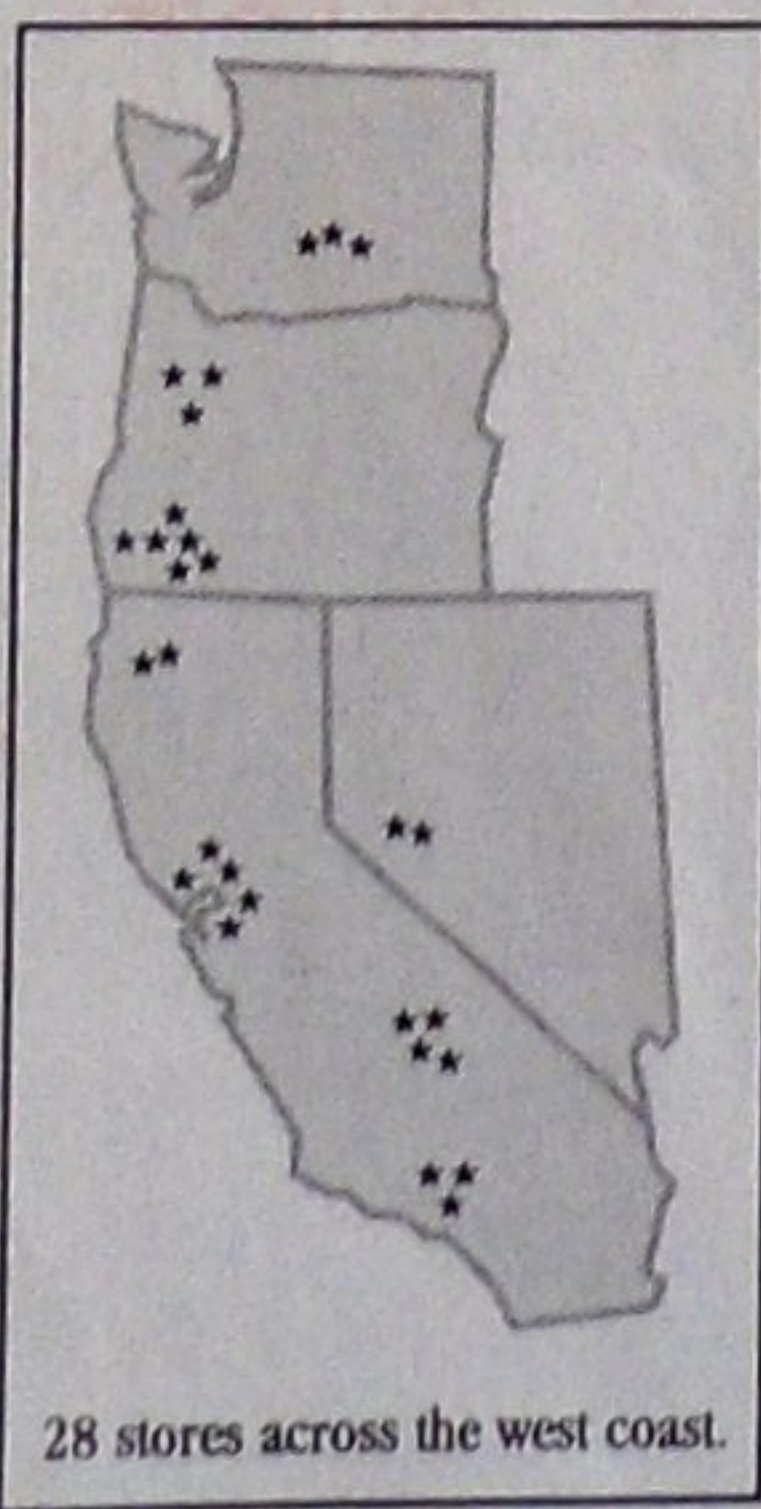
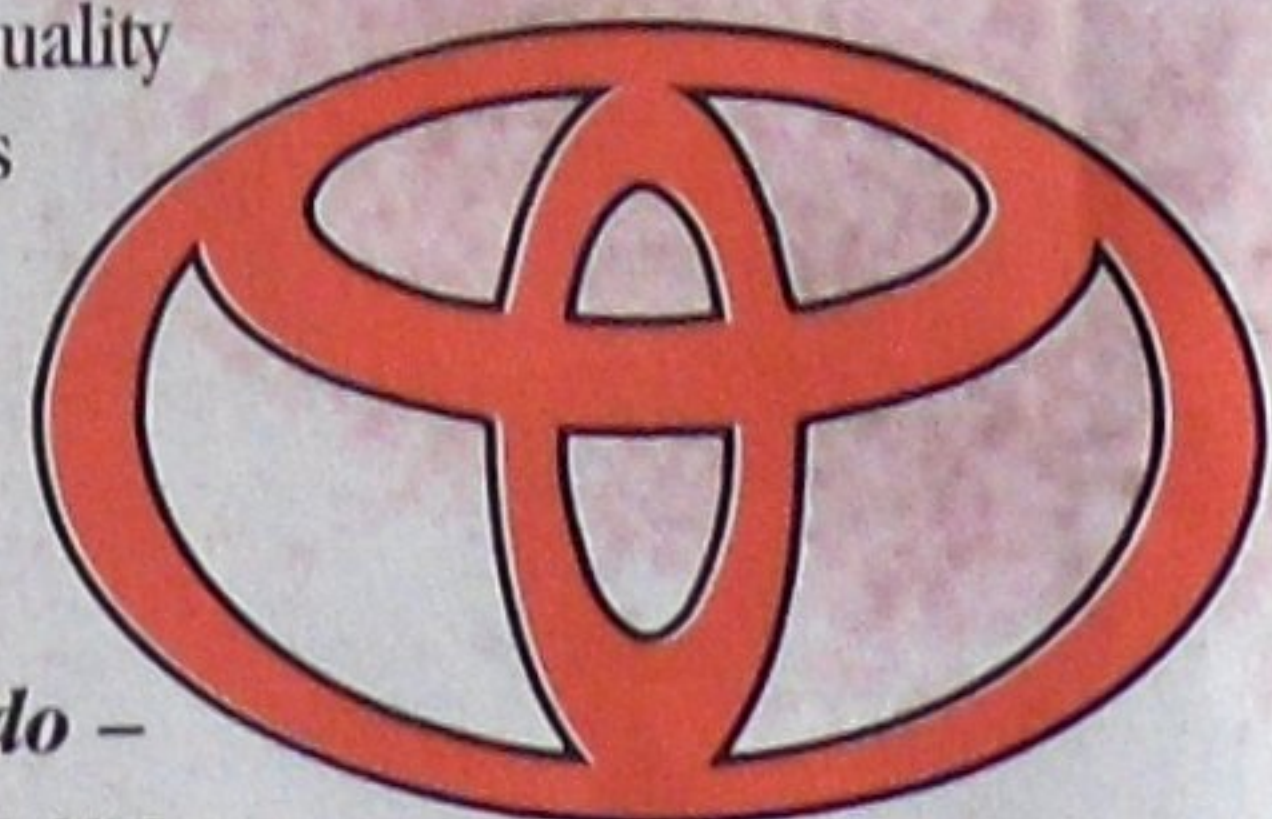
**Products** — Our products are the end result of our efforts, and they should be the best in serving our customers. As our products are viewed, so are we viewed.

**Profits** — Profits are the ultimate measure of how efficiently we provide our customers with the best products for their needs. Profits are required to survive and grow.

### GUIDING PRINCIPLES

**Quality comes First** — To achieve customer satisfaction, the quality of our products and services must be our number one priority.

**Customers are the focus of everything we do** — Our work must be done with our customers in mind, providing better products and services than our competition.



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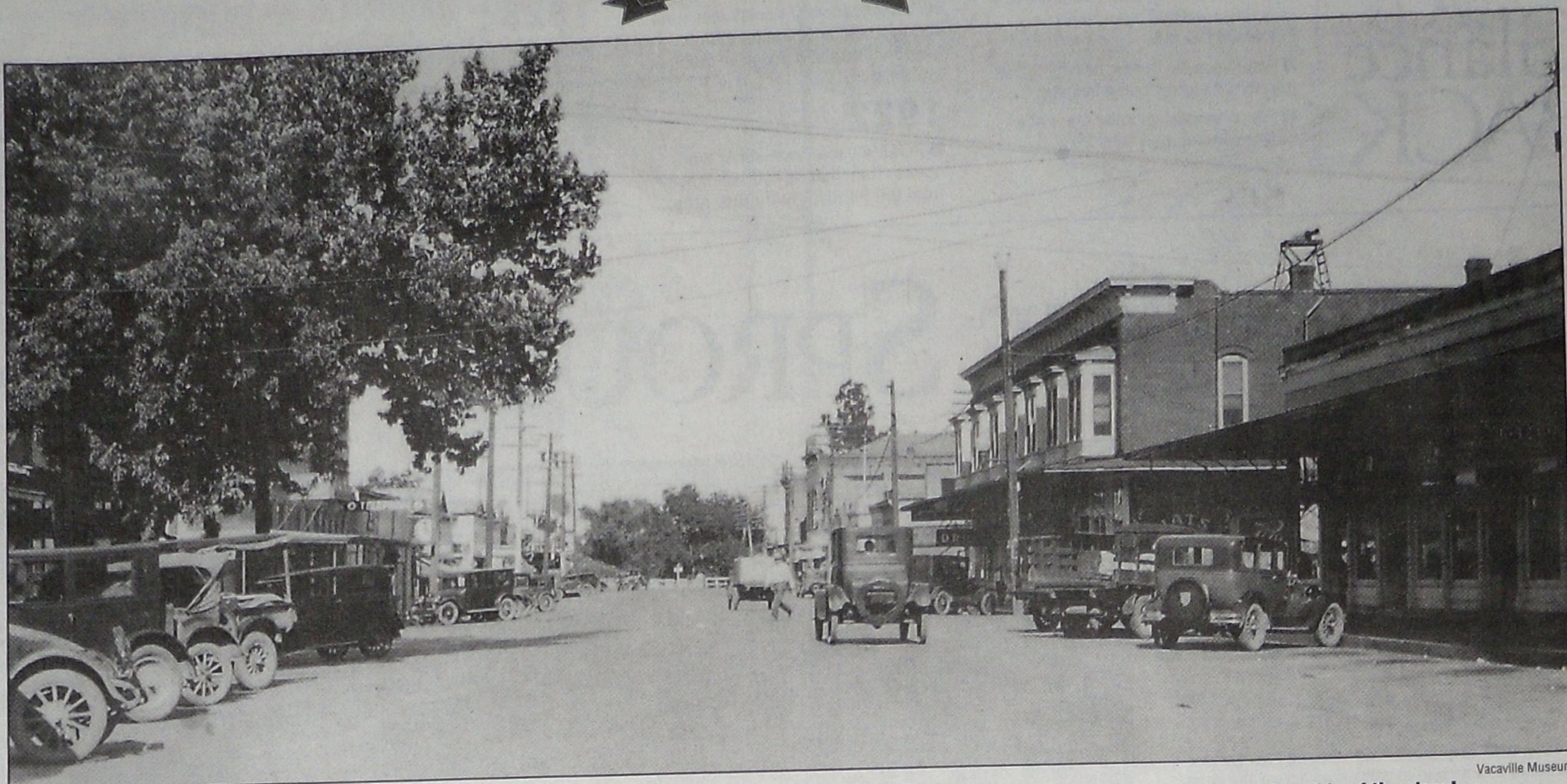
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# REPORTER 1920-1929

THE PAST CENTURY



Vacaville Museum

Looking east on Main Street Vacaville in 1925, the signs of prosperity local residents enjoyed were visible in the number of automobiles parked on either side of the street.

## BOOSTERS BETTER BUSINESS

### 1920s witness surge for local enterprises

By Karen Nolan  
Special to The Reporter

Community leaders shouting the town's praises put the roar in Vacaville's Roaring '20s. "The more people who come here, the greater our prosperity," The Reporter succinctly explained in 1924 as it urged readers to provide a statewide promotional organization with names of prospective tourists. "The way to get new residents is to get folks to visit us. If they like what they see, they will stay or come back."

The drive to bring people to town was enhanced early in the decade when, after 11 years of planning and false starts, the Vacaville Hotel Co. was at last able to provide overnight accommodations.

Construction of the two-story, 34-room Hotel Vacaville on Merchant Street, which doubled as the state highway, began in April 1920. In August, the \$50,000 building, outfitted with \$10,000 worth of furnishings, was opened with a banquet in the maple-floored dining room.

"It is certain that the residents of Vacaville will find many uses for (the

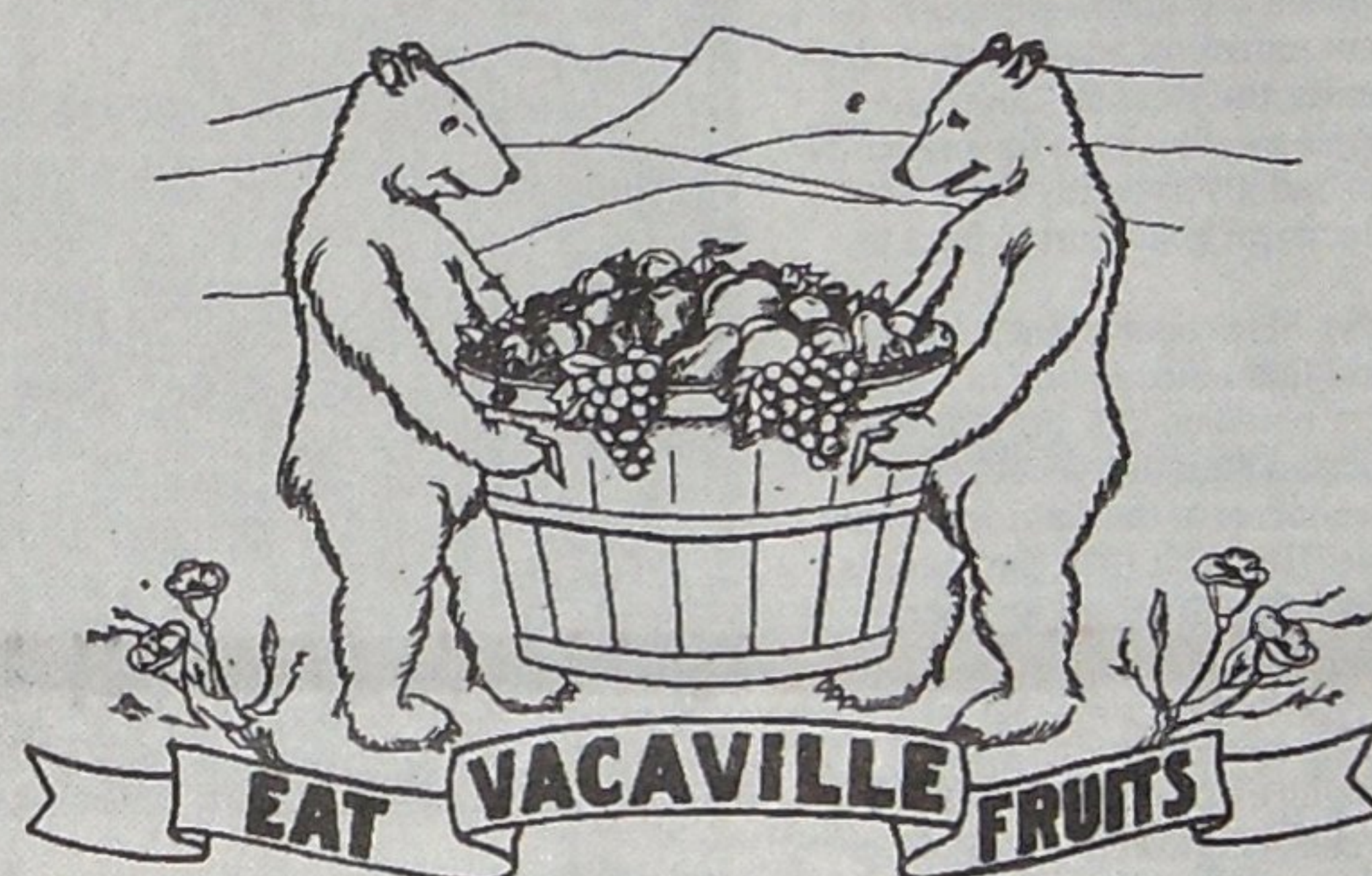
hotel) day after day," The Reporter opined. "Families will find that they can get an excellent meal there and vary the monotony of home fare. There is also an excellent public bath on the lower floor, with hot and cold water at any hour of the day. This is available to anyone for a very nominal charge."

Vacaville's location halfway between San Francisco and Sacramento made it a prime stopping point for an ever-increasing number of motorists. Horsepower was no longer the purview of the horse.

In 1920, Joe Manuel asked the town council to stop making him pay to license his livery stable, since he was down to one wagon. In 1921, Standard Oil Co. tore down the oldest structure in town — a blacksmith shop built 53 years earlier — and replaced it with a service station. And when a visiting farmer in 1922 asked W.H. Edwards to recommend a stable to rest his team for the night, it took the candy store owner three phone calls to locate one.

Motorists were more readily accommodated. Gasoline and service stations took care of their machines. Restaurants along the highway took care of

Emblem  
Adopted  
by  
Vacaville  
Boosters,  
Associa-  
tion



Will be  
used on  
Stationery  
and on  
Advertis-  
ing  
Matter

In 1925, the Booster Association sponsored a contest. From that came the first city emblem (above).

hunger and thirst. And if the hotel wasn't to their liking, well, the town trustees had turned the old Women's Land Army labor camp into a car campground.

By 1925, visitors coming to town from either direction were greeted by one of two 10-foot-diameter orange and black signs erected with funds donated by Shell Oil. Each bore the emblem of two grizzly bears on hind legs surrounded by sprays of poppies and carrying a basket of fruit between them. "Eat Vacaville Fruits," they commanded. "Welcome to Vaca Valley — Vacaville Boosters Association."

The pro-Vacaville forces had

claimed victory over the "knockers" of the previous decade. They made it official in the fall of 1922, when 70 community leaders formed the Vacaville Boosters Association. Even before adopting bylaws, the group planned its first promotional event: A celebration to mark Pacific Gas & Electric Co.'s completion of the substation just north of town.

The following month, the Booster Association elected officers and accomplished its second goal: It secured a night watchman for the business district.

Throughout the decade, the Boosters took on projects important to the com-

munity at large, as well as the business district. It supported a \$20,000 bond to improve streets. It purchased and decorated the annual community Christmas tree. It backed the local Boy Scout movement, as well as a proposal to build a gymnasium for youth. It urged its members to improve their buildings' appearances and to dispose of their garbage properly. It also initiated the movement to obtain free postal delivery service, which meant putting up street signs and house numbers.

Nearly every cause that came to town found its way into a Booster meeting, and other organizations regularly (See Boosters, Page 6)

## RUMBLINGS OF THE ROARING '20s

### Focus falls on health, rights, fashions

By Julie Davidow/Staff Writer

The '20s may have been roaring, but Vacaville residents also had serious business on their minds throughout the decade. A declining fruit industry set the tone for perhaps a more somber mood.

Concerns about public health, patrolling illegal drinking, and fear of "radical" influences invading the body politic loomed in the background of more lighthearted developments, including a new "up-to-date" movie theater and racy trends in women's fashions.

Monitoring and maintaining children's health received careful attention in the community — especially with regard to communicable diseases.

Vacaville residents felt certain that following the guidelines established by the state Board of Health would ensure prevention of most any ailment.

The Parent Teacher's Association at the grammar school welcomed Dr. Lela Beebe, a physician from the California Bureau of Child Hygiene, in 1924 to speak about infant care.

"(It is) highly immoral to have diphtheria or smallpox, if we consider things that are harmful to others to be immoral," said Beebe.

Everything from weigh-ins for kindergartners to tonsil removal clinics were organized to keep school-age children disease free.

The public health nurse — whose \$1,500 annual salary was paid jointly by the Vacaville Red Cross, the city high school and grammar school districts — reported conducting more than 1,200 examinations of children in 1921. Her visits included a range of care, including prenatal, infant welfare, sanitary inspections, nursing aid and tuberculosis checks.

Public health officials heralded prohibition of alcohol for contributing to a more robust community. A reported increase in milk consumption in 1927 was linked to the ban on booze.

"Prohibition is one factor in the sudden popularity of milk," The Reporter said. "There's many a man boasting a milk-fed complexion today whom friends once identified by a red, red nose."

Citizens of Vacaville — dry for more than 10 years prior to the nationwide enactment of prohibition with the passage of the 18th Amendment in 1920 — appeared not to have lost their hankering for drink, despite the apparent health benefits of abstinence.

Prohibition officers raided My Place, an establishment located on the highway toward Suisun, twice in 1924. Each time, once in April and again in September, owner Francisco Vallutini was arrested, charged with possession of liquor, and forced to pay a \$500 fine. During the second raid, Vallutini's assistant, (See Rumblyings, Page 8)

### Trends of the Times



With the changing times came changing styles, including women's much shorter hair-styles. The students of Vacaville High School's class of 1926 show some of those styles.

Vacaville Museum



## Vacaville: A Glance BACK

### 1920

■ Radio comes to Vacaville. Mr. and Mrs. Tate and Mr. Davis listened to a concert broadcast from San Francisco Oct. 15.

■ Hotel Vacaville opens, helping to fuel the city's fledgling tourist industry.

■ F.B. Chandler, pioneer Vacaville businessman, dies Feb. 20.

### 1921

■ The Nut Tree opens under a shade tree.

■ Consolidation of Vaca Valley rural schools begins when the Alamo, Lagoon, Pena and Vacaville districts are merged.

### 1922

■ PG&E's Vaca-Dixon substation opens, transmitting hydroelectricity from the Pit River to the Bay Area.

■ Vacaville Boosters Club organized to promote the city's business interests.

### 1923

■ Henry A. Bassford, prominent early fruit grower, dies.

■ Work begins on the Carquinez Bridge. Finished 22 months later, the

span would bring even more traffic through Vacaville, helping to stimulate roadside businesses such as the Nut Tree.

■ The Bank of Italy — later the Bank of America — takes over the Bank of Vacaville and pioneers lending to smaller borrowers.



# AUTO AGE SPROUTS ROOTS

## Technology infuses lives of more Vacans

By Sally Miller Wyatt  
Special to The Reporter

In 1926, the Carquinez Bridge was under construction and a new road to carry cars across the span needed to be built. Solano County's share to build that road: \$18,562.50, or about as much as an average-sized car costs today.

In the 1920s, the evidence was fast mounting: The car was definitely king and technology its driver.

Technology came to Vacaville in the 1920s over radio waves, through newly built electrical substations and bridges, and by car and truck. Vacaville residents embraced with relish all the newfangled contraptions, conveniences and appliances that arrived.

In the early 1920s, the radio was just beginning to emerge as a means of communication and very few families had one. One such family, the Neat M. Tates, had access to a "wireless" telephone, thanks to the ingenuity of friend Daryl Davis, who had just recently completed a postgraduate course in electrical engineering from the University of California.

Davis built two towers on his property, each 126 feet high and 325 feet apart, and that allowed him to receive radio signals. The Reporter noted on Oct. 15, 1920, that the Tates and Davis had, for an hour and a half, "the pleasure of listening" to a concert at the California Theater "without leaving home." In April 1921, the Tateses invited over as many as 30 people to "enjoy an opera right at home."

By 1922, local high school students had begun a fundraiser so they could buy their own radio set.

In 1924, the radio was being extolled as a way to "strengthen the family circle," and to keep "young and old instead of wandering in search of diversion," at home, to hear bands, pipes, organs, religious services or a play.

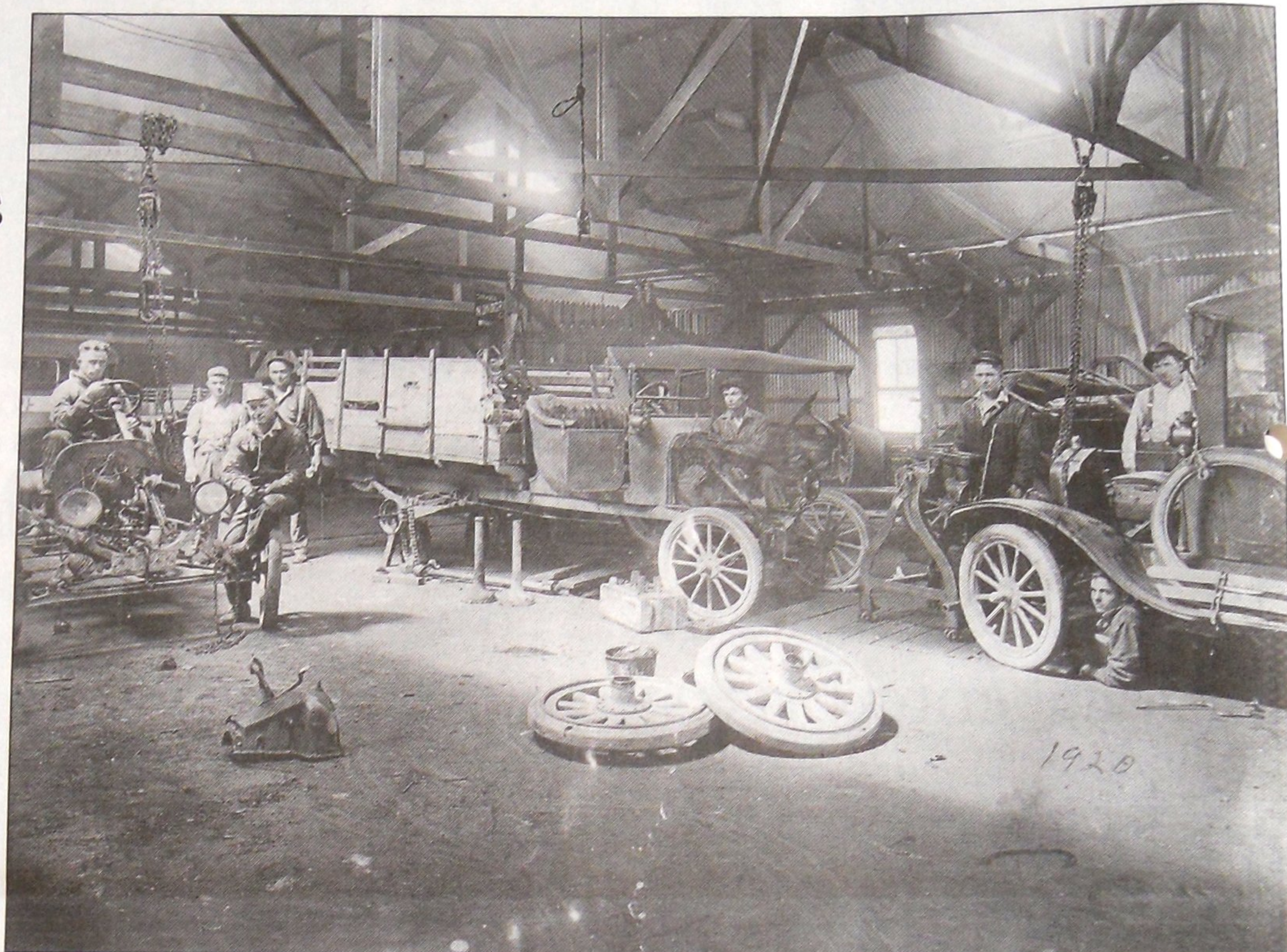
In 1929, the coveted radio was fetching a hefty \$130 at local appliance stores, or just \$75 for a table-top model.

The landbound were looking forward to construction of the Carquinez Bridge, which actually began in October 1923. The Reporter noted that when it was completed, "ferry service between Rodeo and Vallejo will be stopped," in an acknowledgment that cars were increasingly the favored way to travel.

The bridge was completed in 1927 and the formal opening was cause for celebration. The Reporter wrote that a caravan of dignitaries and cars was set to leave Sacramento on May 21 at 9:30 a.m., and would pass through Vacaville about 10:45. Official ceremonies were scheduled for 1:30 p.m. and those who attended were treated to toll-free passage, along with such activities as yacht and motor races, and plenty of speeches.

In 1921, Pacific Gas and Electric began construction on its Pit River hydroelectric plant, located at Hat Creek. A substation to help deliver the soon-to-be-generated electric power was to be constructed in Vacaville, and work on that substation began in the summer.

With more power flowing into Vacaville, residents were taking advantage of it by checking out some new appliances. The Chandler-Hurt Furniture Company ran an advertisement in June, 1925 inviting people to come check out the "latest technology in clothes washing" — a



Reporter file photo

washer that "actually seizes the suds in the clothes and forces it through." The whole tub full of wash could be done in an amazing three to seven minutes, relieving one "of all hand rubbing of wrists, collar and cuffs."

In 1924, an advertisement for a White Frost refrigerator announced that this version was so advanced it "will cut your ice bills" because the doors are so tight-fitting the ice will be slower to melt.

Technology was helping local agriculture as well. In 1923, a reporter was invited to visit R.E. Bryant's poultry farm, to see all his up-to-date and labor saving equipment. The methodologies he employed were so advanced it required him to spend only "20 minutes a day to care for 2,000 hens," and two additional hours on the weekend.

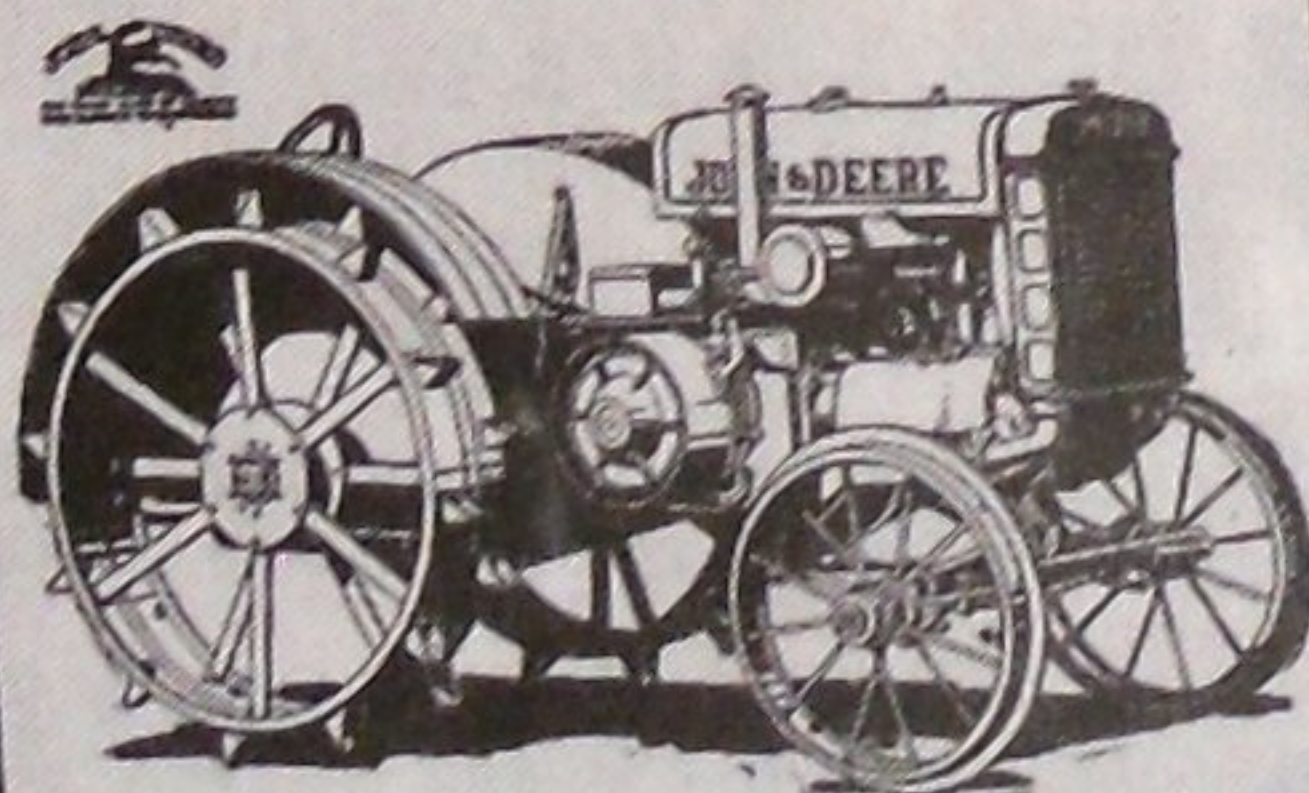
Mrs. Alma Bowles purchased the most advanced kind of dehydrator in September 1925, and it was reported to be able to dehydrate three tons of fruit in 24 hours. Later, C.J. Uhl announced his dehydrator would dry 25 tons in 24 hours. It was the largest plant of its kind in Northern California and took 12 men to run it. By 1927, Uhl's dehydrating efforts had doubled, to as many as 60 tons a day.

In May, 1928, the Vacaville Fruit Growers Association bought a cooling car for use at the R. Buck Co. packing plant. Using fans and ice, it was able to cool fruit for shipment from 72 degrees to 46 degrees.

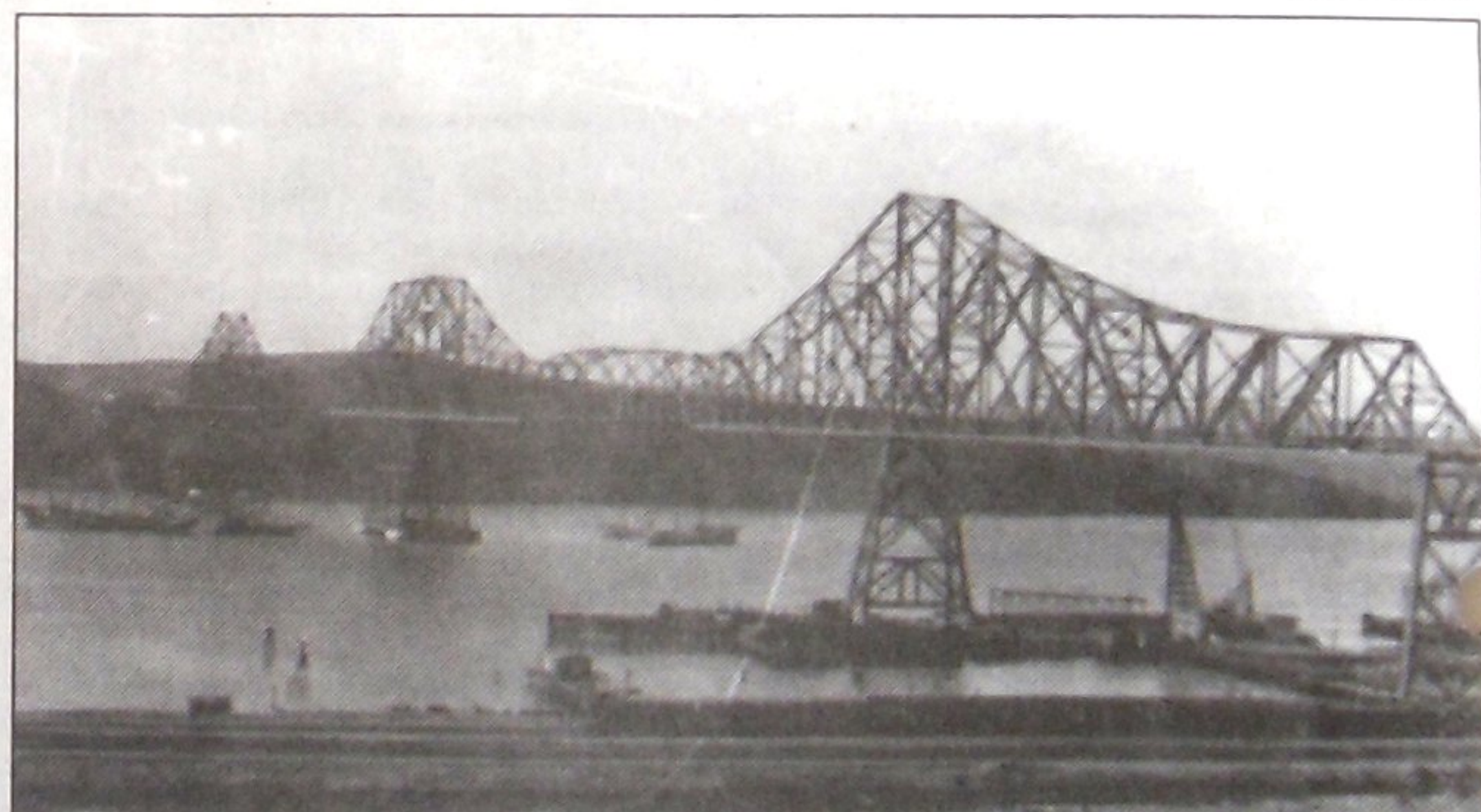
As with the car and the radio, telephones also were in great use in Vacaville, and The Reporter noted that as Pacific Telephone and Telegraph would, in 1927, remodel its office space to better serve as many as "500 stations in Vacaville."

### Deep Cultivation

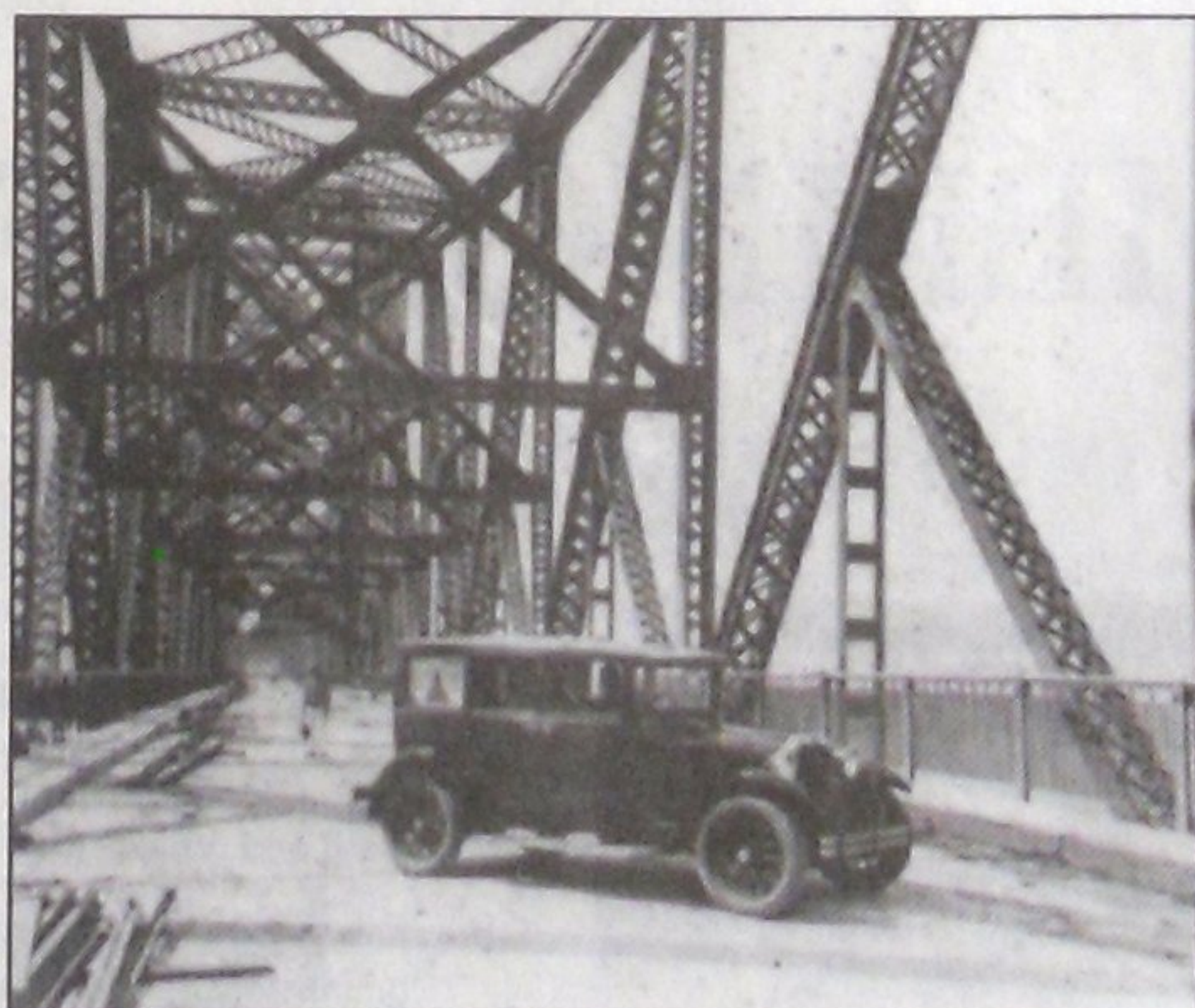
with no straining or overloading  
the motor to get results



ASK THE FARMER WHO OWNS ONE  
**GEO. P. AKERLY**  
VACAVILLE DISTRIBUTOR



Vacaville Heritage Council



The interior of McMillan's Garage in 1920 (top) indicates the business the modern age was bringing to Vacaville. The completion of the Carquinez Bridge (above and left) increased the flow of motor traffic through Vacaville, and thus resulted in the prosperity of the roadside business here. Agriculture also benefited from technology.

Vacaville Heritage Council

Find All Your Flower  
Needs At



**Florist & Gift Shop**  
Family owned since 1955

Rose and John Lopez began wedding and funeral floral arrangements in 1957 and moved to a larger location at 218 Main Street, which was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Del McCune. John and Rose Lopez remodeled the home and opened its doors as Rose Florist and is still in the same location.

218 Main Street • 448-4222



Rose & John Lopez

### The National Hairdressers Association



In Chicago on August, 1921 the first convention of the National Hairdressers Association was held. Twelve regional groups, representing 500 members, including hairdressers, barbers and cosmeticians (trained in skin care and cosmetics as well as hairdressing) signed the Charter of the National Hairdressers Association (NHA). As would be the case in all Conventions to come, industry leaders provided educational programs as well as presented lectures to Convention attendees.

**G. Norman Hair**  
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## 1924

■ John Rico begins working at The Reporter full-time, nine hours a day, six days a week.

■ T.H. Buckingham dies May 1.



■ Regular airmail service inaugurated between New York and San Francisco and cities — including Vacaville — en route.

## 1925

■ Vacaville gets an official slogan — "Eat Vacaville Fruit" — and an emblem.

■ St. Mary's Catholic Church burns to the ground. Rebuilt in 1930.

## 1926

■ The Clark Theatre, a modern, air-conditioned movie house, opens in time for the talkies, which come to Vacaville in 1929.

■ The Vacaville Exchange Club, another "boosting" organization, is organized.

## 1927

■ The city's Board of Trustees quietly becomes a City Council.

## 1928

■ Vacaville Boosters Club and the Vacaville Exchange Club merge to become the Vacaville Chamber of Commerce.

■ The Klotz School of Aviation opens in Vacaville exhorting Vacaville residents to "Be one of the first to fly."

## 1929

■ Construction begins on the new gym for Vacaville High School.



Robert (left) and Edwin Power Jr. stand next to Ernie Smith's biplane in 1928. Smith was the first civilian to fly from California to Hawaii. Aviation has been an important part of a Power family business, the Nut Tree, located near the county airport.

# AVIATION TAKES FLIGHT

## History of flying in Vacaville has beginning

By Sally Miller Wyatt  
Special to The Reporter

Aviation — and all its advantages — was capturing the attention of several local residents by the time the 1920s roared around.

Early in the decade, local businesses learned how having access to an airplane gave new meaning to the word "customer service."

In March 1920, an airplane was used to "fill an emergency order for auto parts,"

according to a Reporter story. It seems the C.D. Mith and Co. was repairing a Studebaker and needed some parts that were in San Francisco.

After a few calls were

made, a distributor of those parts used a friend's airplane to deliver them to Vacaville — "one hour and 20 minutes later." The distributor and his pilot landed in a field just south of town.

Airplanes also were used to advertise special events. Capt. Vance Breese flew a plane over Vacaville one day in May 1923, "and gave the city a few thrills while advertising a dance at the Lagoon Inn."

Air mail service came to town in 1924. An announcement in The Reporter explained that Air Mail service would begin on July 1, 1924, and was available from San Francisco to New York City. If you wanted to send a letter in such a fashion, the article noted, you



An early ad in The Reporter for flying lessons (left) and a plane in Dixon in 1921.

## Plane lands to offer rides

James L. Mayberry of Oakland, who has the northern California agency for the Eagle Rock airplane, landed in the field near the Union oil station Wednesday forenoon with one of his planes, and a number of local people were permitted to enjoy the novel experience of a ride through the air.

Several short trips were made by Mr. Mayberry, and he took as passengers Norman Chamberlain, Freddie Pyle, Zuella Miller, Dorothy Caughy, Buddy Caughy, Elmer King, Donald Roff, Ramona Attkisson and Dorothy March.

March 16, 1928  
The Reporter

must put a 2-cent stamp on the envelope, write "Via Air Mail," and add additional postage, depending on how far the letter was to travel. New York's fare was an additional 24 cents, while it was only 8 cents to Salt Lake City. Your letter would arrive in about 34 hours.

In 1927, 100 acres of land in Denverton — near Suisun — was set aside for an airport

that would feature a runway that was to be 300 feet wide and 3,000 feet long. The airport's construction was part of a government project to connect communities by air. Similar airports were established in Concord and Esparto.

In April 1928, Al Klotz announced at Vacaville Exchange Club meeting that he had a tract of land, had ordered a plane and lined up a man as an instructor. He was seeking support for his efforts to establish a flight school and

the club voted in favor of supporting him; they also voted to call it Klotz Field.

Later in 1928, aviation made the news again, this time when a famous aviator — Ernie Smith — was forced to make a surprise landing "at the Harbison place when his engine went dead." He had been giving sight-seeing flights to friends at the time, and apparently there were no injuries to either.

## Prosecutor: Crime truly costly affair

"United States is the most lawless of the civilized countries in the world," was the startling statement made by Buron R. Fitts, past state commander of the American Legion and assistant district attorney of Los Angeles county, in an address before the Boosters at their weekly luncheon Wednesday noon, on the subject of "Crime."

Mr. Fitts stated that he made no claim to be able to tell how to stop crime, but it was his desire to bring before the people the facts. Since the World War there have been over 111,000 murdered in this country, about double the number of those who lost their lives on the battlefields of France while serving under our flag. It is estimated that crime cost this country \$10,000,000,000 in 1924, and in the state of California alone the cost was \$71,000,000 last year.

Every law-abiding citizen has the right to demand of the government the protection of his personal and property rights, and in spite of the enormous cost, which affects every tax-payer, he fails to receive it. There are two outstanding reasons for this. The laws are so full of loopholes that they no longer protect, and the courts are handicapped and gagged by the laws. Just so long as this condition exists, crime will continue, and men will make a business of murder, as they do now, killing at the rate of \$100 per life. To remedy this evil, definite changes in the laws have been prepared, and will come before the legislature next January.

One of the noticeable things in the present crime wave is the youth of the criminal. Forty years ago the average age of the criminal was 34 years; today it is 22 years. Evidently the boy problem is America's outstanding problem. To meet this, we must rely on the home, church and schools, and there never has been a substitute for the old-fashioned home. It has been estimated that in this country 93 per cent of the criminals were neglected at home in their youth.

To show what could be accomplished by proper training in youth, the speaker stated that never had a Boy Scout or a Camp Fire Girl been an inmate of San Quentin prison.

To bring about a reduction in crime Mr. Fitts believed in the establishment of industrial schools, where boys who go wrong could be taught trades. Every prison, he declared, was a monument to neglected youth, and everything we do for the youth of the land is money well spent, for the making of citizens was not so difficult as remaking them.

The Reporter  
May 21, 1926

## Klan initiates 75 'neophytes'

An open air initiation was held on the highway, between here and Fairfield, by the Ku Klux Klan last Saturday evening. The ceremony was carried on under the light of a flaming cross, emblem of the order, and a large illuminated American flag. Estimates on the number of machines driven into the meeting place put the figure near 1200, perhaps more. Approximately 700 members of the order were on hand and a class of about 75 neophytes were naturalized into the ranks. During the ceremony a wonderful male quartet rendered "Just As I Am," followed by an address on the "Aim of the Organization."

Spectators were present from as far north as Eureka and down the coast to Santa Cruz. The initiatory work was performed by a team of Oakland, Alameda, Vallejo and Napa members.

The Reporter  
Oct. 10, 1924

## Vaca woman bobs hair

In keeping with modern times, and following the modes of other women and girls, Mrs. Jim Paparelli of Vacaville had her hair bobbed in the latest style the latter part of last week in Sacramento. Her hair measured six feet one inch, and its unusual length caused the barbers to have photographs taken to be published in the Sacramento papers.

The Reporter  
Sept. 14, 1928

Our menu caters to everyone's appetite.

A menu is essentially a listing of dishes and drinks. But it is much more than that. It illustrates the personality of the restaurant, often being a major contributor to that personality.

A menu is sometimes the work of the restaurant's interior designer, but—at all times—it must be complimentary to the restaurant's decor.

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GRILL & BAR

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Travelling back through time: 1920-1929



José Lopez, Founder

I'd like to introduce Jose F. Lopez, Vacaville's original "Joe the Barber." He came to Vacaville in 1920 to work with his brother Juan in a small barber shop in the rear of Mrs. Ramos' "Spanish Hotel," on Merchant St., now the home of Vasquez Antiques. There, the two young men worked their profession for several years. They moved from there to a shop on E. Main St. where KUIC 95.3 station now stands, and called it "The Alhambra," in tribute to their Spanish heritage. Follow us each month to find out more about the history of Barber Joe's in Vacaville.



**Barber Joe's**

Vacaville's Oldest Family Hair Salon  
Full service for men, women & children

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With Tape Library  
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**\$341** \$379



Contemporary  
Wall Unit  
Regular Price  
**\$1068** \$1187



Traditional  
Wall Unit  
Regular Price  
**\$1529** \$1699



Farmhouse Dining Set  
Regular Price  
**\$170** \$189



Natural Trestle Table  
Regular Price  
**\$359** \$399



Raised Panel Nook Set  
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**\$521** \$579



48" 2-Leaf Carved Table  
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# Rumblings ...

(Continued from Page 3)

Tony Ruggeri, "escaped by making a hurried exit through a window and outrunning the officers."

Marshal Hughes, who reportedly had several local establishments under surveillance in February 1924, arrested Manuel Marquis Falcon, a Spanish shoemaker on Davis Street, after he "discovered a considerable quantity of wine on the premises."

Progress — or the decline of decency, depending on your perspective — was measured by some according to the length of women's hairstyles and hemlines.

Determined not to be left out of big city fashion trends, women in Vacaville embraced the new "modern" look of a 1920s flapper, whose bobbed hair and relaxed dress styles reflected a new casual attitude.

"In keeping with the modern times and following the modes of other women and girls, Mrs. Jim Papareli of Vacaville had her hair bobbed in the latest style in Sacramento," The Reporter said in a 1928 front-page story labeled, "Vacaville woman bobs 73-inch hair."

Some commentators pronounced the threat to good health posed by the rapidly changing aesthetic of female beauty. Critics pointed to a rise in the tuberculosis death rate among women between the ages of 15 and 30 resulting from newly acquired habits.

"Several years ago, young women adopted the fashion of the slender figure. Curves 'went out' and angles 'came in.' Silly fads in fasting, smoking and drinking, tight brassiers, scanty attire — these things were smiled upon because they contributed to the boyish frame," a Reporter article said in 1928.

Apart from shedding Victorian fashion styles, the 1920s marked a turning point in Vacaville women's efforts to carve a niche in the community's political affairs after securing the vote in 1920. A letter to the editor signed by the club women of Vacaville in 1924 reveals women's struggle to define a public role.

"We hear a great deal about 'woman's place being in the home.' No club woman has ever argued differently. Woman's place is in the home, but even the sanctuary of the

home is dependent upon outside influences. She cannot maintain her authority or influence in the home and withdraw herself completely from forces outside. There is not a condition nor an act relating to community and governmental affairs which is not directly concerned with her home and her family. It is her duty to keep abreast of the times, to learn and know for herself what is best for the most sacred of all institutions of American life — the American home."

In May 1921, the Presbyterian, Baptist and Christian churches announced their intention to join together and create The Community Church of Vacaville.

"This much-to-do-desired union of church strength will lead to many improvements and greatly increase the efficiency of the work in the community," a Reporter article said.

Struggling for much of the prior decade with declining church attendance, the decision to combine the congregations was intended to reinvigorate religious participation.

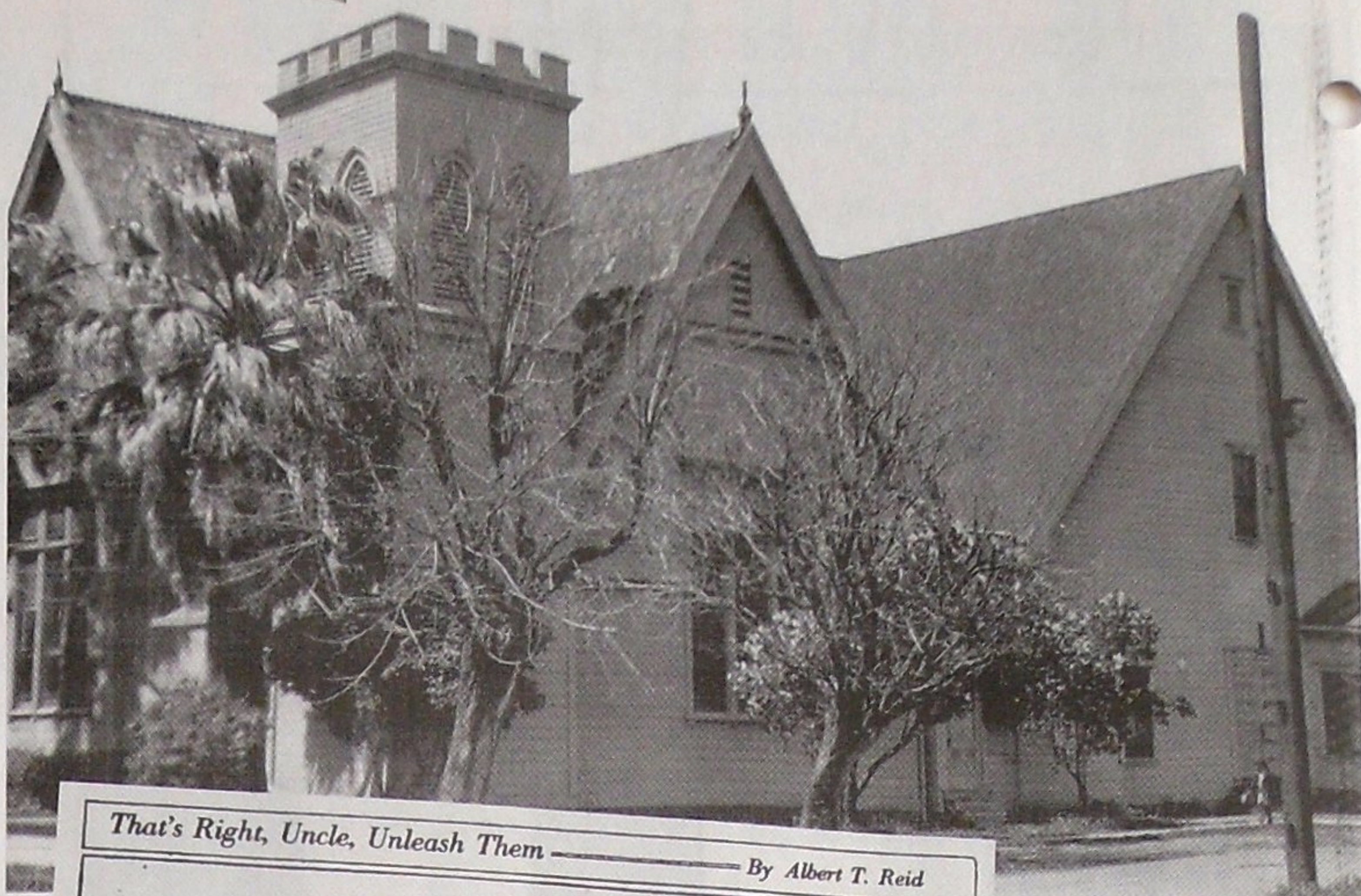
However, the post-World War I generation sought solace away from traditional sources.

In an era characterized by the pursuit of pleasure, new forms of entertainment often held more allure than church services. For much of the decade, the Strand Theatre dominated the scene. But the Clark Theatre, built in 1926 to big-city, modern standards, drew Vacaville residents for both live entertainment and screenings of the latest motion pictures.

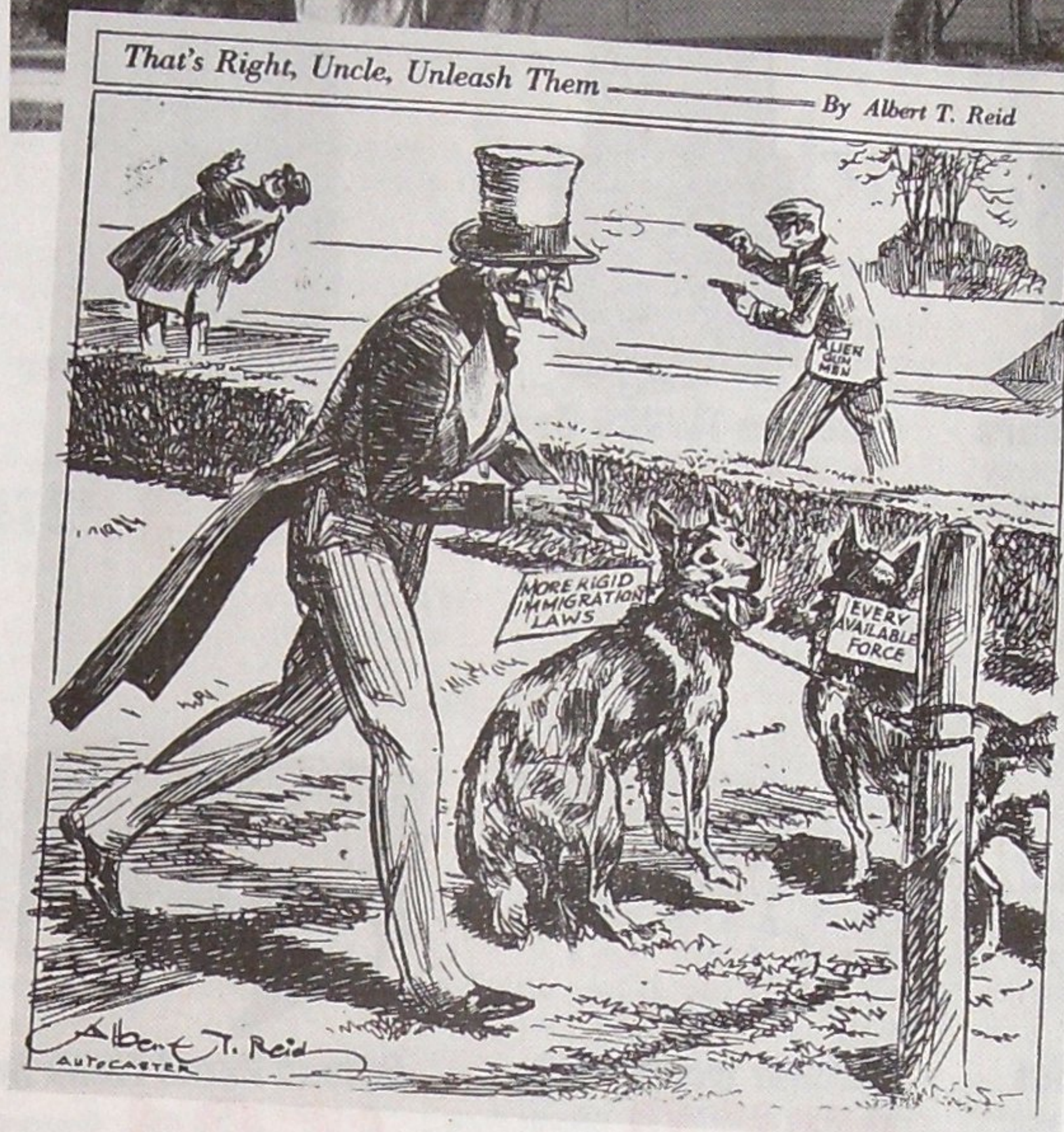
A Reporter editorial in February 1929 confidently pronounced the "decline of radicalism."

"Labor exploitation is a thing of the past. The agitator today is hard put to find an enthusiastic audience in industrial America."

Ironically, the writer's comments were recorded less than a year prior to the beginning of the greatest employment crisis in the history of the nation. The undercurrents of concern over radicalism that surfaced sporadically in the 1920s heated to a feverish pitch in the decade to follow, leaving Vacaville at times violently divided amid a level of labor activism never before reached in the farming community.



Vacaville Museum



Political cartoons (left) and editorials warned against radicalism during the '20s. On a more theological basis, trends seemed to push three local churches — Presbyterian, Baptist and Christian — to form the Vacaville Community Church in 1921. The Rev. A.C. Fruhling of the Presbyterian Church (above) became the Community Church's pastor.

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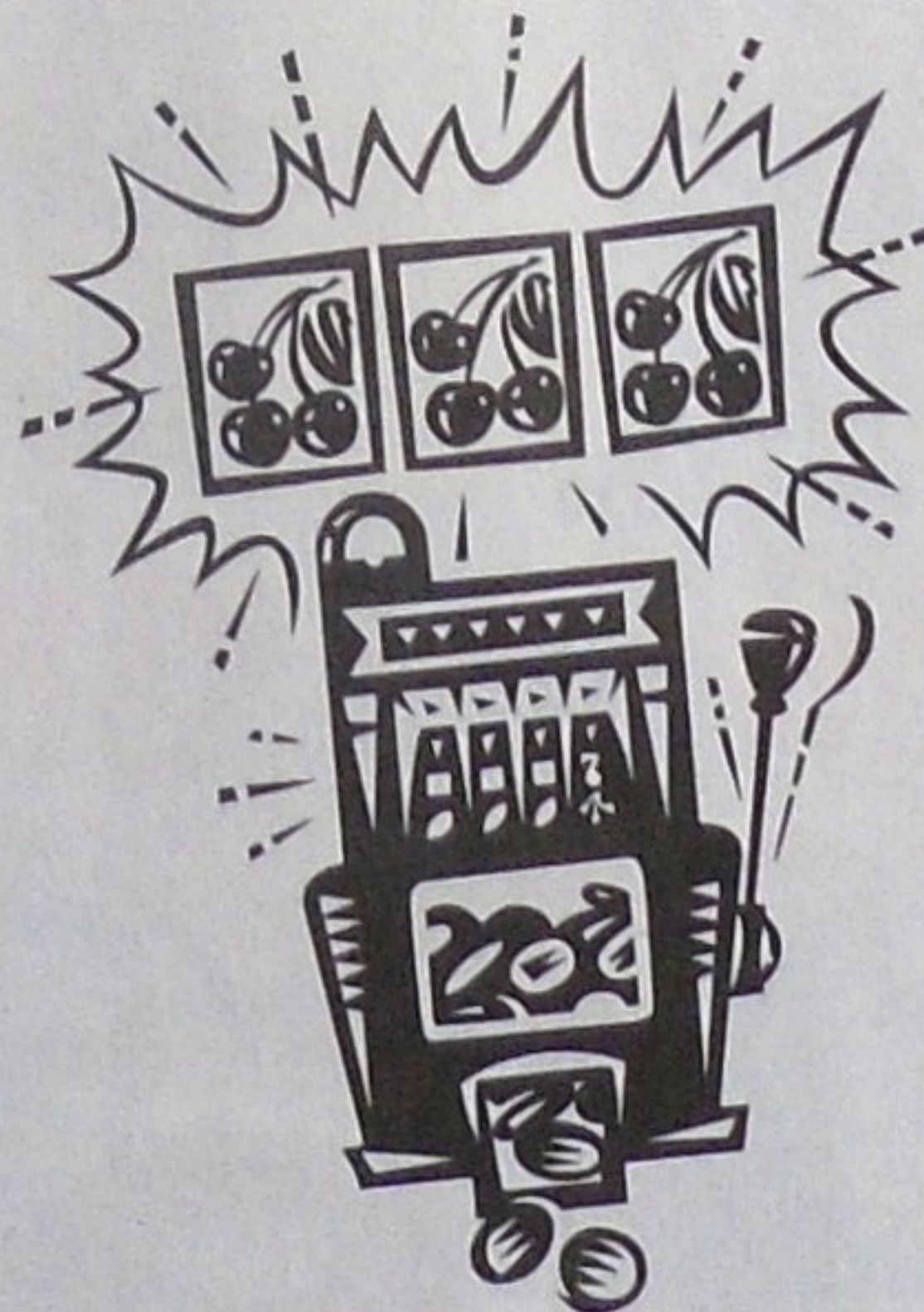
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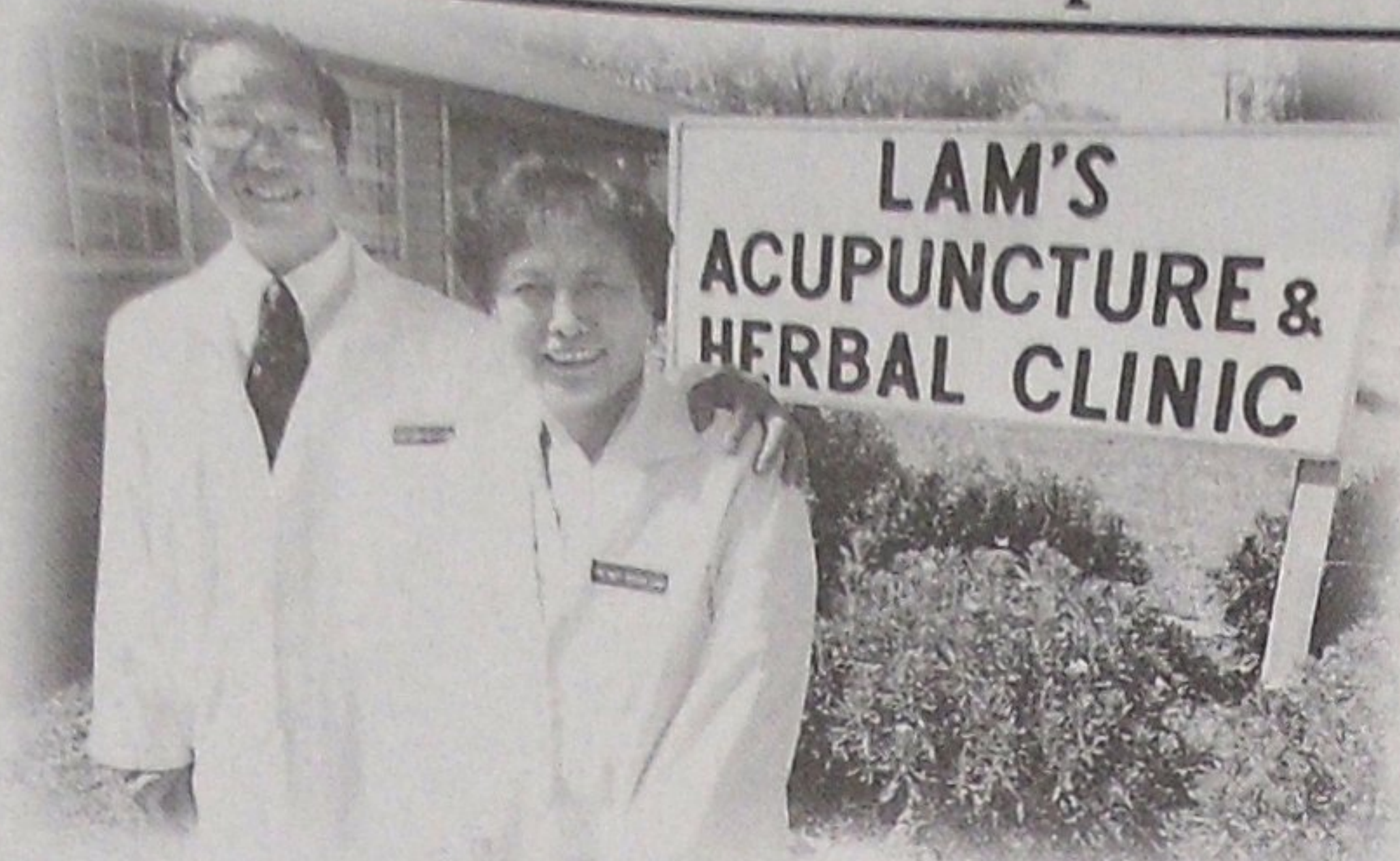
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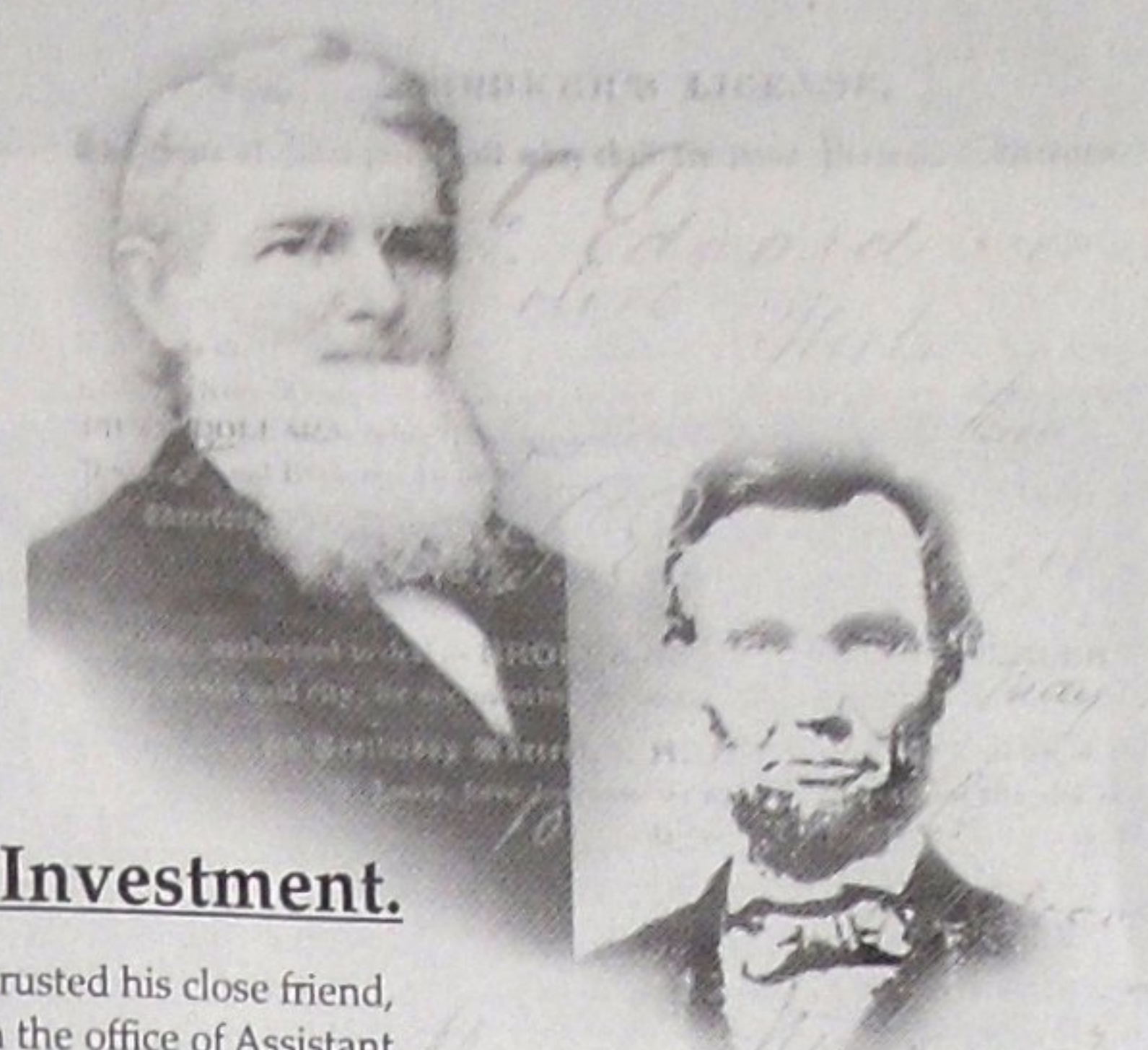
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# Vaca fruit industry faces tough times

## Weather, tighter market put strains on locals

By Karen Nolan  
Special to The Reporter

The fruit industry in the 1920s continued to be the foundation upon which Vacaville's fortunes were built, although it was becoming shakier by the year.

Mother Nature seemed to conspire against the growers early on. A heat wave and drought damaged the 1920 crop and the next two seasons proved lackluster. An untimely north wind knocked off both fruit and blossom in 1924, at a time when the area was already under a provisional quarantine because hoof-and-mouth disease had been found in the south county.

"Everyone suffered equally," The Reporter observed at the end of the 1924 season. "The working man has not been employed steadily, and neither he or the fruit grower has any money. Vacaville is feeling, for the first time, the effect of a very bad season."

*"Everyone has suffered equally. The working man has not been employed steadily, and neither he or the fruit grower has any money. Vacaville is feeling, for the first time, the effect of a very bad season."*

Excerpt from a 1924 Reporter article

Not everyone was ready to give up on the fresh fruit market, although most agreed some changes were necessary. But growers had trouble agreeing on standards, although many tried to come together to promote their mutual interests. Vacaville farmers were among those who joined the California Peach and Fig Grower Association when it formed in 1925 and the California Deciduous Fruit Growers, in 1928.

The Vacaville Fruit Growers Association continued its cooperative efforts. In 1927, it completed a 144-by-112-foot packing house next to the Sacramento Northern Railway tracks on Davis Street. It could handle five carloads of plums per day, which were marketed under the brand names Chief Solano and Pacer.

The '20s would prove to be the

swan song for the local fruit industry, but local growers had been warned. In 1926, W.V. Cruess, associate professor of fruit products at the University of California, pointed out that the market was fast becoming saturated. U.S. fruit production, he said, was increasing at a rate of 14 percent a year, while the population was growing only 1.5 percent a year. "What's the answer? Eat more fruit? It can't be done," Cruess said, urging producers to stop planting orchards, at least until they found new uses and markets for their fruit.

A few Vacaville growers tried the latter. In 1928, they took part in an experiment to ship fruit to Shanghai, Manila and Singapore. The fruit traveled well, but, alas, the Asian markets were already saturated with their own crops.



The Nut Tree became a popular stop for motorists driving through Vacaville, and brought along with it a positive image of Vacaville and Vacaville fruit.

Reporter file photo

## Nut Tree born, spreads fruit worldwide

By Karen Nolan  
Special to The Reporter

The shell of the Nut Tree stands directly across the freeway from what is now the geographic heart of Vacaville, but when Helen Harbison Power set up her fruit stand there in 1921, she was well outside of town.

Yet even then she was close enough for Vacaville's boosters to appreciate what she and her husband, Edwin "Bunny" Power, were doing to enhance the town's reputation.

"A business which had its modest beginning just about two years ago seems likely to make Vacaville famous throughout the country," The Reporter commented in January 1923.

By then, the Nut Tree already was selling more than a few figs and glasses of lemonade to passing motorists. Fifty people had found work there the previous fruit season, harvesting 135 acres of orchards, filling fresh fruit orders for customers from Seattle

to San Diego, stuffing figs and prunes, and, of course, serving motorists who needed a break from their travels.

After fruit season, when most agriculture-related businesses shut down, the Nut Tree still had 15 people packaging California Fruit Confection, "a delicious sweetmeat manufactured from processed prunes, figs, pears and apricots, candied in their natural juices ... and mixed with nuts," The Reporter wrote. The candy, sold in high-class stores from Boston to San Francisco, was packed in fancy boxes bearing the words "The Nut Tree, Vacaville, California."

The town couldn't get better publicity. And the Nut Tree was only getting started.

By the following fall, the Power family had borrowed \$1,500 and built a factory in town. Seventy-five people were hired to box up holiday packages, such as the redwood box filled with 20 pounds of dried Vacaville fruit and sent to the president of France on behalf of a San Francisco man.

Even the post office profited from the mail-order business. According to the news-

paper, a noticeable increase in the number of stamps sold during December 1925 could be attributed to the shipments from the Nut Tree.

The packing plant was moved to San Francisco in 1926, and the Vacaville factory began producing only the fruit confection.

By then, though, Edwin Power was already on to a new enterprise: Making and designing papier-mache containers for packaging Nut Tree items. Power bought the Sperry Flour Co. warehouse and factory near the Southern Pacific Depot and hired a man from Kansas City area to oversee production of the fancy containers.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, the simple roadside fruit stand had grown to include a tea room, restaurant and soda fountain.

Yet it wasn't candy or fancy containers or restaurant food that would prove to be Helen and Edwin Power's most valuable product of the decade. That distinction belonged to their children, who would grow up to take over the business. All of them were born in the 1920s.

## New city traffic officer warns against speeding

O.E. Alley, the newly appointed traffic officer for Vacaville has completed his first week on the job. During that time he has stopped 222 machines. The violations run the whole list usually found, principally being speed, lights, cutting-in, cutting corners, signals, passing on corners and such things.

The officer says that he is much pleased with the spirit of cooperation evidenced by the majority of the drivers and the local citizens. "However," he said, "there are a number of persons around here who consider themselves immune, and they have been cautioned. If they persist, it will be my duty to give them tickets."

Of the 222 drivers stopped, only 22 were sufficiently deep to

meet fines, which they did.

Alley wishes the local people to watch their lights, their numbers, their signals and such other little things, so they will set examples for visiting motorists. He also stated that Buck Avenue and Mason street were being converted into speed-ways, both early in the morning and in the late afternoon, although some drivers use these thoroughfares all day to speed on. Fast driving with cut-outs open is the favorite stunt of many going out these streets. This will stop.

The best speed attained by any driver was 45 miles per hour down Main Street, between the school house and the drug store corner.

The Reporter  
June 25, 1926

## Man pays fine, donation

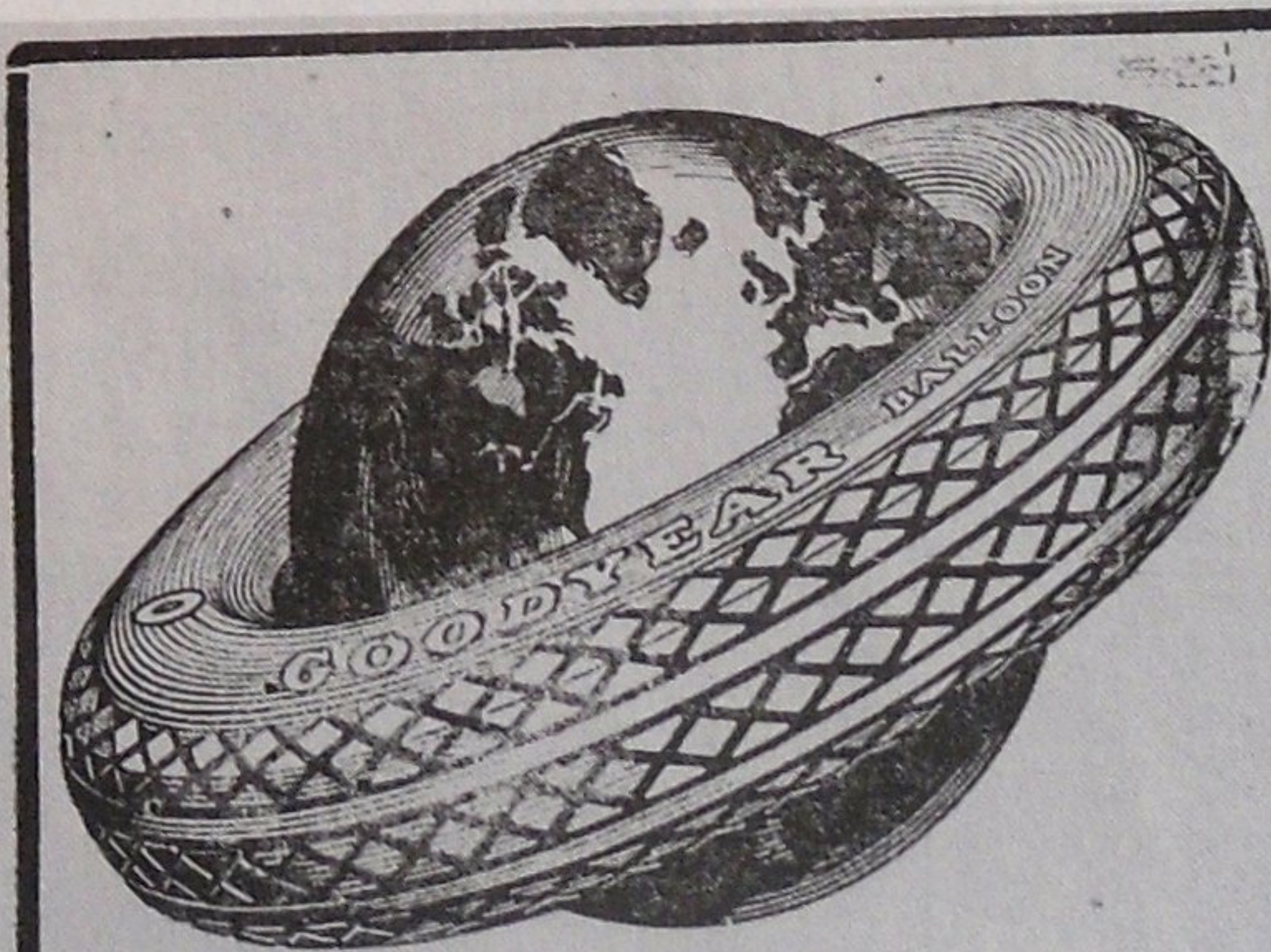
W.R. Larzelere of San Francisco, who was arrested early in May for speeding, but who failed to appear before Judge Platt when ordered to do so, finally put in an appearance yesterday, and claimed that he had been here on the date set. The judge declared that he had not been out of his office for a longer period than half an hour at a time on the date in question, while Mr. Larzelere was quite positive that he had waited at least two hours for his honor to appear and administer justice.

That not being the point at issue, it was finally dropped, and the defendant very grace-

fully handed over \$10, which was the amount Judge Platt assessed him.

Then Mr. Larzelere surprised the court by announcing that he would like to leave his check for \$50 for the benefit of any poor people in Vacaville, and asked to whom he should make it payable. The judge recovered from his astonishment sufficiently to suggest the Red Cross, whereupon the benevolent stranger wrote out a check for \$50, payable to Mrs. Frank McKeivitt, president of Vacaville chapter, and departed in the best of humor.

The Reporter  
May 21, 1920



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Goodyear announced this new tire recently as "The World's Greatest Tire."

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This ad in The Reporter of April 22, 1927, for a local garage makes quite a worldly boost. Goodyear — not "Goodyear" as is found once in the ad — now claims to be "No. 1 in tires," and owns a fleet of blimps seen over sporting and other major events.

## Wine found; man jailed in fatal crash

As a result of the disclosures following the accident last Saturday night, in which Harn Dykema lost his life, Arthur Avery, owner of the wrecked automobile, has been arrested on the charge of transporting liquor, and his car confiscated.

W.W. Greer of Sacramento, assistant federal prohibition officer, was in attendance at the inquest, and learned that a bottle of wine had been found in the wrecked car, of which Avery disclaimed all knowledge. As the evidence showed that Avery and his companion had been at the Defillippis place, Greer secured the assistance of Constable Stadfeld, and, armed with a search warrant, the Defillippis premises were duly searched.

Although Mrs. Defillippis, in her testimony at the inquest, had declared that what little wine they had on the premises was spoiled, and that they gave or sold wine to no one, the officers discovered a number of barrels of claret in the cellar and also four or five barrels of wine hidden under the hay in the barn.

Avery was held for trial and released on \$500 bonds. He can also obtain possession of the car pending the final result of the trial, by filing a bond for \$1,000. Avery was represented by Attorney Reynolds.

The Reporter  
Oct. 28, 1921



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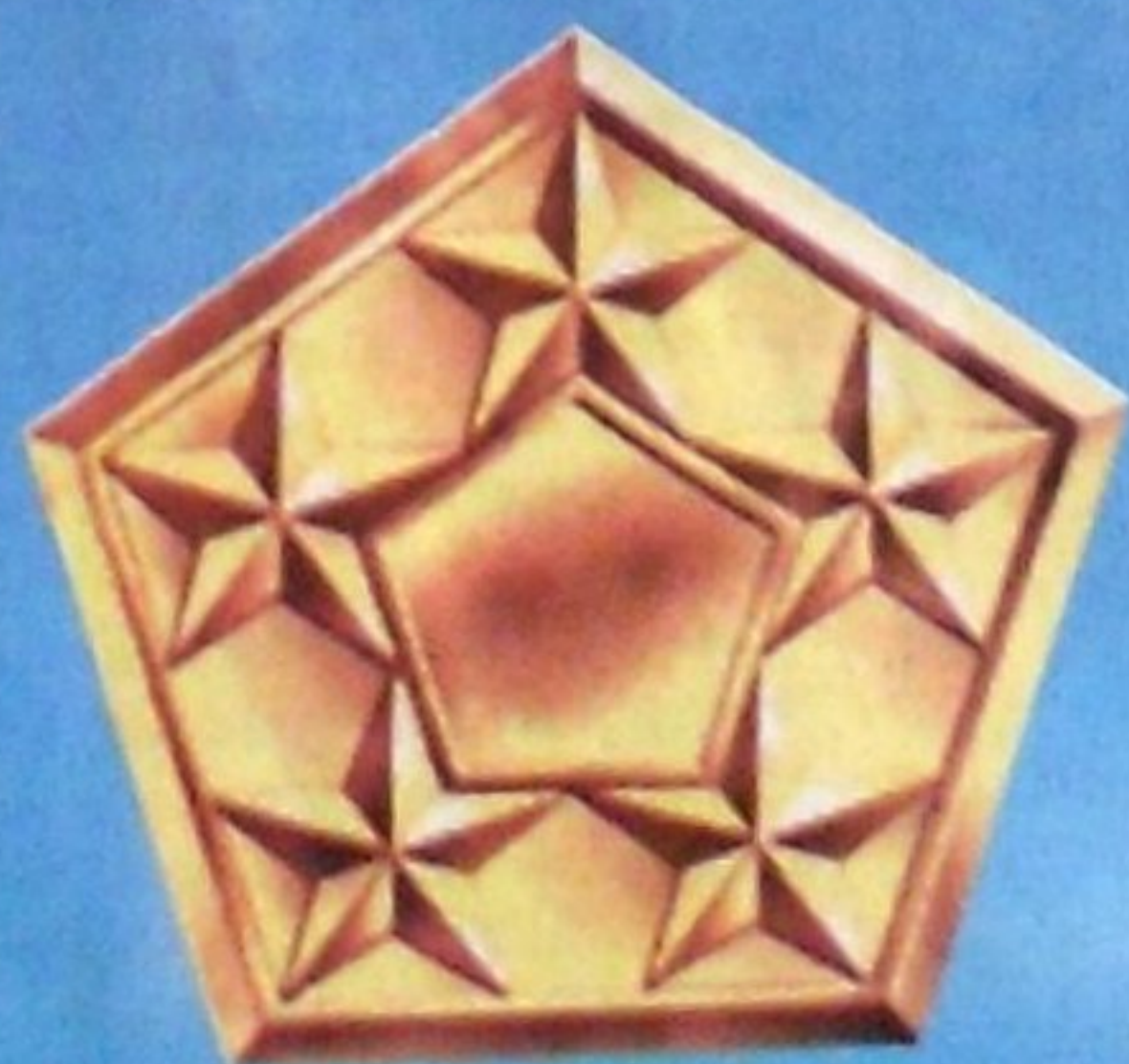
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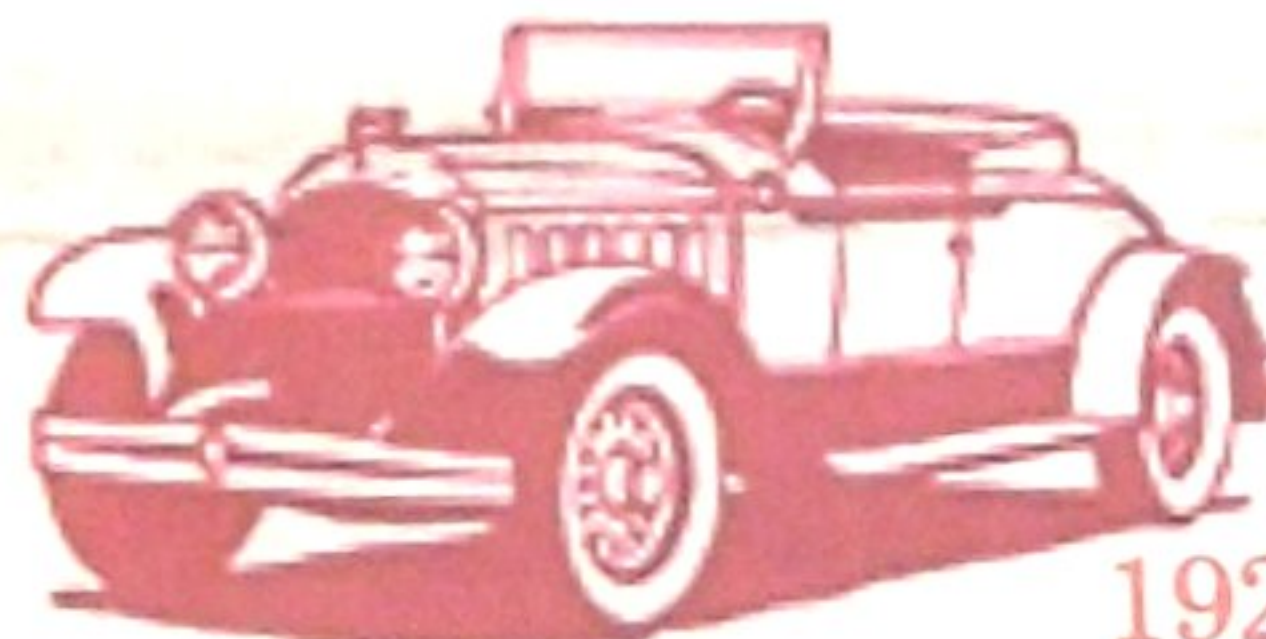
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1924 –  
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1920-1929

THE PAST CENTURY

# Vacaville schools unite for students

## Locals vote in favor of consolidation

By Sally Miller Wyatt  
Special to The Reporter

**P**rior to the 1920s, depending on where they lived, local grammar school children were either studying their reading, writing and arithmetic in the newly built grammar school, or in one of several one-room schools located throughout the rural community.

Vacaville residents were being introduced to the concept of school consolidation in 1920. An article in The Reporter noted that the trend actually began in Boston in 1875 and, although it was slow to catch on, was starting to gain momentum. "The days of the little one teacher school are numbered," the story reported.



Reporter file photo

Proponents of consolidation argued that a "large consolidated school with good lighting, water under pressure, a basement, heating, domestic science for larger girls, and manual training for boys," was important for students.

Other advantages to consolidation were gaining access to an "in-town library, hot showers, organized games and contests, organs, pianos, phonographs, special teachers adapted to special subjects such as music, art, agriculture and physical education." The building would be modern, proponents argued, as well as fireproof, with better heat and light and sanitation, in addition to having a nurse. "Your child will arrive on a bus dry, with no colds or coughs during the long winter," proponents promised.

The argument was heeded and Vacaville voters offered a "major victory for consolidation" in June 1921, "by a splendid vote which exceeded expectations," making Vacaville the first town in Solano County to consolidate its schools. The vote in Vacaville was 153 in favor and 16 against, and thereafter the Lagoon, Alamo, Pena and Cooper schools would unite.



Vacaville Museum

Days of the one-room, one-teacher rural schools, such as Alamo School (left), were numbered by the time the 1920s rolled around. More schools were consolidated, bringing in rural students to schools such as Vacaville Grammar School. (Above) is the 1921 seventh-grade class of Vacaville Grammar School.

A new school, Ulati School, was built in 1924 at the corner of School and McClellan streets. It boasted six rooms and a 400-seat auditorium. The principal was E.H. Padan.

Throughout the previous decades, enrollment at Vacaville's "town" grammar school had fluctuated at the elementary level from about 130 to as many as 250 students. Numbers dropped for various reasons, including outbreaks of measles, mumps and other diseases, as well as the need for children to miss school while they helped in the orchards.

Vacaville High School was completed in 1898, and its freshman through senior class students were taught, in addition to the basic skills of reading, writing and arithmetic, "the fundamental political, religious, economic and moral values of the prevailing British-American culture," according to "Vacaville: The Heritage of a California Community."

The Heritage of a California Community."

For students who, because of family or farm obligations, could not attend high school full-time, but wanted to develop employable skills, commerce classes were available. Students attending these classes could learn typing, bookkeeping and shorthand.

Throughout the 1920s, efforts to fund construction of an expansion of the high school and a gym was put before voters who turned it down many times. Space for the upper grade students was at a premium by this time and editorials noted that "this issue has gone on too long unresolved."

Voters finally approved a \$62,000 bond measure in 1929 and builders went to work that summer, constructing the new addition which, when completed, would contain five classrooms and a gym.

When the new addition opened in 1930, enrollment was at 185 students, almost double the capacity of the old building, according to "Vacaville: The Heritage of a California Community."

## Teacher takes gun from boy

Miss Preston, teacher at the Milzner school, was called upon to face a situation Wednesday afternoon which certainly proved her courage. She discovered John Lopez, a 14-year-old Spanish boy who resides at Bucktown with his parents, hunting on the school premises, and ordered him off the grounds. He refused to go, and she put him off. A short time after, while the school was in session, he discharged the gun from the porch in front of the building, evidently to annoy the teacher. Miss Preston went out, took the gun away from him and threw it into the road, and during the scuffle was struck by Lopez. She then went back into the school, and a few minutes later another shot was fired, this time at the door, the charge striking the casing. Still unafraid, Miss Preston again went out, grappled with the boy, and took the gun from him, but this time carried it into the school room with her.

The matter was reported to Constable Stadtfeld Thursday morning, and in the afternoon he went to the boy's home and placed him under arrest. The matter will come up in the juvenile court as soon as a date can be set.

The Reporter  
Nov. 10, 1922

## Halloween warning issued

Vacaville's youthful population who are planning Halloween activities on the 31st will find it to their advantage to remain within bounds set by the police department. Special attention will be paid to complaints against young offenders who insist on carrying out a destructive program.

Chief of Police Hughes today issued the following message to the younger generation: "No rowdiness or vandalism will be tolerated, and any child who violates these orders will be dealt with. I warn all children not to commit any nuisance that will land them in jail. Extra officers will be on hand for that night."

The Reporter  
Oct. 26, 1928

# FORCE YOURSELF

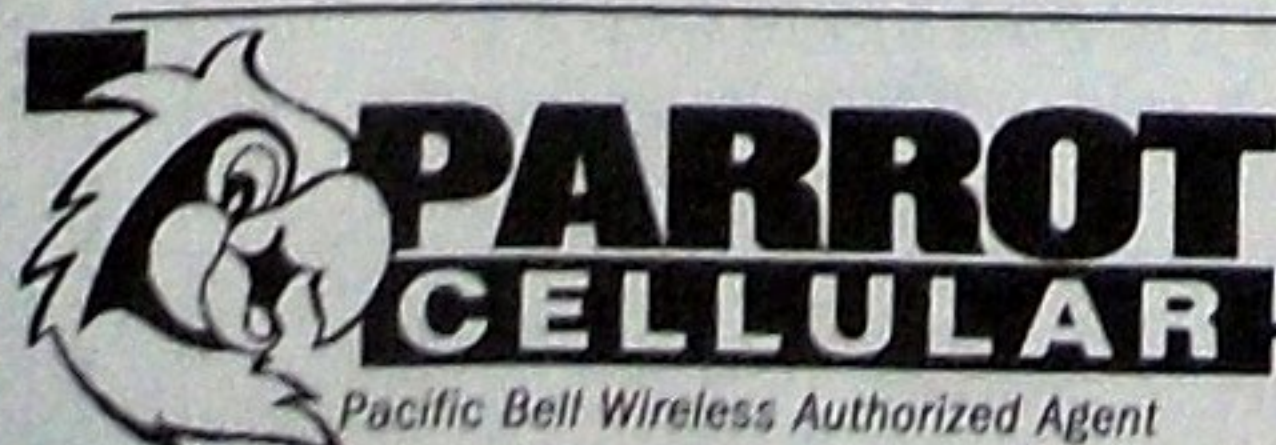
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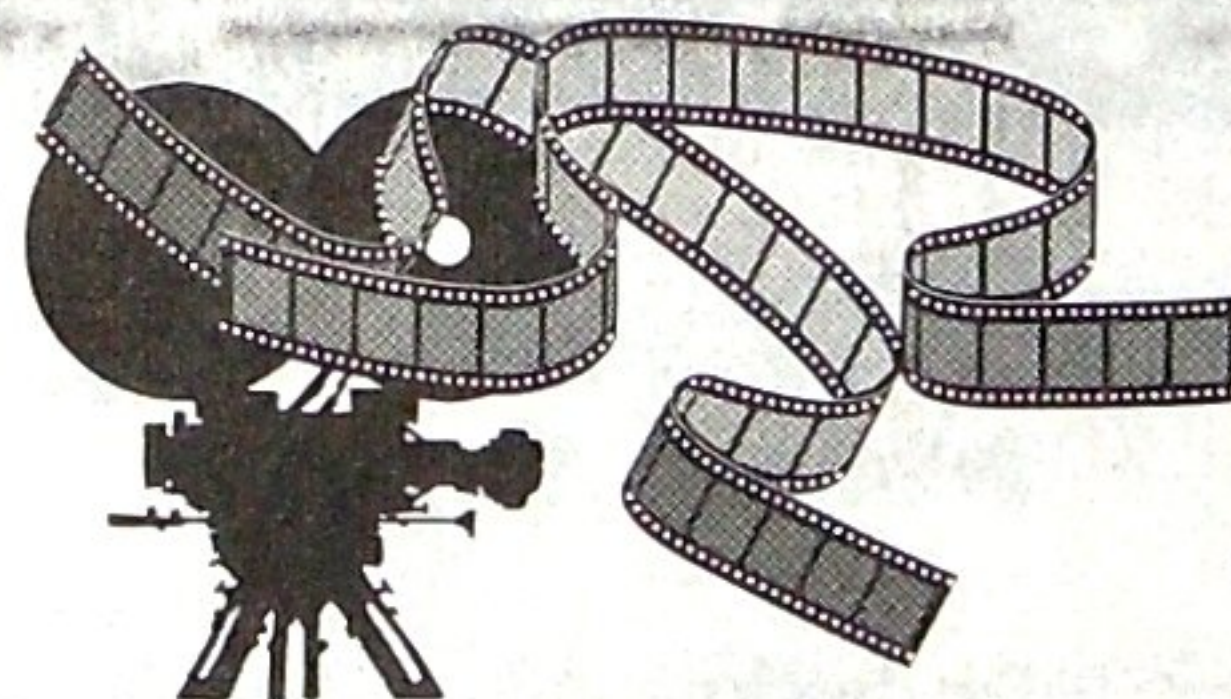
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A look back...  
1920-1929

Looking back...when a customer came into Thornton & Son's Jewelers to have a piece of jewelry designed, John Thornton would do a rough sketch of the design. As time went on John was sent to a rendering class for jewelry.

Then when the designing was done, it would be done in a nice full color rendering for the customer to preview. This gave the customer a

good idea as to what their special design would look like when completed.

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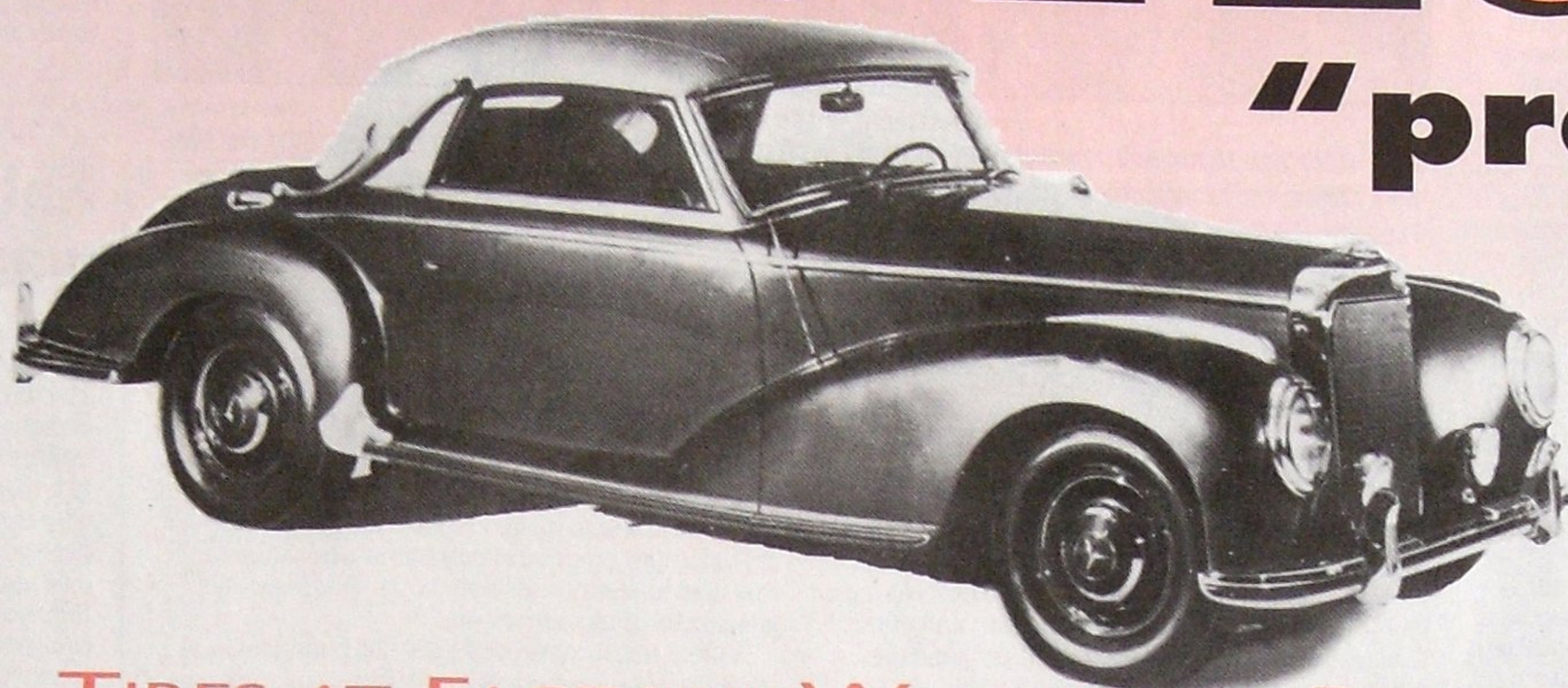
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1920-1929

THE PAST CENTURY

# Pioneer magnate succumbs

## Livery, lumber Chandler's feat

**F**B. Chandler, a pioneer business man of this section, passed away at his home on Stevenson street last Sunday evening, after a long illness, bringing to a close a life which may be termed successful, not only in the narrow meaning of the word, but in the highest and truest sense — for every man was his friend, and the memory of his many kind and thoughtful acts, done in a quiet and unassuming manner, will linger long in the minds of those who now mourn his loss.

Mr. Chandler suffered a stroke of apoplexy about fifteen months ago, and though at times his health seemed to improve, he never fully recovered.

The funeral was held from the family residence Tuesday afternoon, and those who had known him and enjoyed his friendship for years joined with the relatives in paying their last respects to his memory, and the many beautiful floral tributes were a silent but eloquent testimonial of their regard. The Rev. A.F. Fruhling of the Presbyterian Church



Reporter file photo

F.B. Chandler was a success in lumber. Above is his lumberyard in Vacaville.

conducted the services. Mrs. S.P. Dobbins sang "The Perfect Day," and Miss Eva Winfield and Miss Alda McBride sang "Come Ye Disconsolate."

Mr. Chandler is survived by his widow and three sons — Harry D., Frederick B. and Walter W. A daughter — Mrs. J.F. Duncan — died several years ago; and a son — Edson James — was killed in 1893 while on a hunting trip by the accidental discharge of his gun.

Frederick Brew-

ster Chandler was born in St. Lawrence county, New York, on July 17, 1832. In 1852, at the age of 20 years, he started for California, via Panama. He reached San Francisco in November and proceeded at once to Sacramento and from there to Shasta, where for two years and a half he worked in the mines with only ordinary success. He then engaged in various business ventures in that vicinity until 1859, when he left the livery and stage business, which he then conducted, with his brother, and returned to his old home in St. Lawrence county. While there he married Rosalia Ellithorpe, who accompanied him on his return trip to California.

In 1861 he sold his livery business to his brother, T.H., and removed to Shasta City, where he purchased the Empire Livery and Sales Stables. During his residence in Shasta he was elected and served two terms as county treasurer and

tax collector.

On the expiration of his last term in office, he closed out his business and went to San Francisco. After seeking a location for some time, he associated himself in 1870 with Coburn Farmer in the lumber business at Vaca Station, now known as Elmira. After one year he purchased his partner's interest, and conducted the business up to about a year ago, when it was taken over by his son, H.D. Chandler, who had acted as manager for a number of years. During this time the business had steadily grown, and yards had been established at Vacaville, Winters, Madison and Esparto. Just recently H.D. Chandler sold the business to the Diamond Match Company.

In 1869 Mr. Chandler's first wife died, and in 1874 he was united in marriage to Susan L. Brock who survives him.

The Reporter  
Feb. 20, 1920

## Prominent fruit grower dies at area homestead

The death of Henry A. Bassford, which occurred last Tuesday at the family home near Vacaville, following a long illness, has removed one of the most prominent fruit growers of this section, whose efforts had done much from the very start to build up the industry, and has also taken from this community one of its best citizens, whose generous impulses could always be counted on to aid every good cause and assist every worthy man.

The funeral was held yesterday from the family residence, the Rev. A.F. Fruhling officiating, and at the grave Vacaville Lodge, L.O.O.F., of which he was a member, conducted the services. The beautiful floral tributes and the many friends who came to pay their last respects, showed the deep regard in which he was held.

Henry A. Bassford, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph M. Bassford, Sr., was born at Benicia in 1854, and under the able instruction of his father

became early in life a skillful horticulturist. He was graduated from the California College, then located at Vacaville, and continued the study of pomology and all branches of horticulture with a determination strengthened by a love for the work. He soon became an acknowledged expert, whose advice and opinions were sought by many, and his home, the Ulati rancho, one of the finest orchards in the state, is, to a large extent, the result of his skill and ability as a horticulturist.

In 1876 Mr. Bassford was united in marriage to Addie Lasselle. She died in 1906, and in 1908 he married Mrs. Emily January. He is survived by his widow and five children — Alonzo P., Roy and William of Vacaville, Mrs. W.B. Knight of Vallejo and Mrs. Harold Naylor of Vacaville. There are also three stepchildren — Mrs. Weston Robinson and Miss Helen January of Berkeley and John January of Oakland.

The Reporter  
Nov. 9, 1923

## Safeway opens store here

C.W. Paxton, local manager for Skagg's Safeway Stores, states that his concern will open a modern store and market in Vacaville on Saturday morning, July 7th, in the building formerly occupied by the L. and C. Cash Grocery. Remodeling of the store is now in progress, and installation of shelving, ice box and refrigeration plant will commence at once.

This is one of more than 1400 stores which this con-

cern owns and operates in fourteen western states, doing a volume of business in excess of \$100,000,000 a year.

Roy Leach, formerly in the employ of the L. and C. Grocery, will assist Mr. Paxton in the operation of the new store.

Dan Bagley, construction engineer for the company, is now in Vacaville installing the equipment.

The Reporter  
June 29, 1928

## A PART OF HISTORY

### "Always A Car Buff"

You've met Monty & Ron - Now met their parents  
Roy and Helen Wilson



Roy and Helen celebrated  
47 years together

Roy was active in the Military for 20 years and in the reserves for 8. He met Helen before World War II and married her when he returned. Roy's hobby was working on cars, so it was natural for him to work with his sons at the Import Service Center in Vacaville when they opened 20 years ago after retiring from the military & civil service.

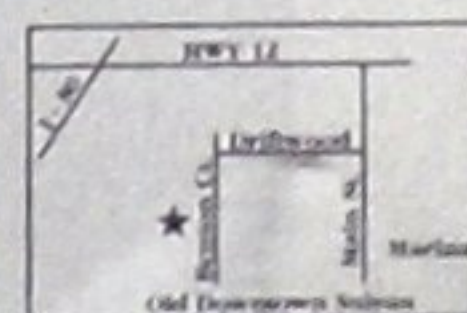
Helen worked in sales at a department store in New York while waiting for Roy to return from the war. They were married in 1945 and had two sons and a daughter, Carla. When Ron, Monty & Carla were in their teen years, Helen worked in the real estate field and later worked for Motorola as a test engineer.

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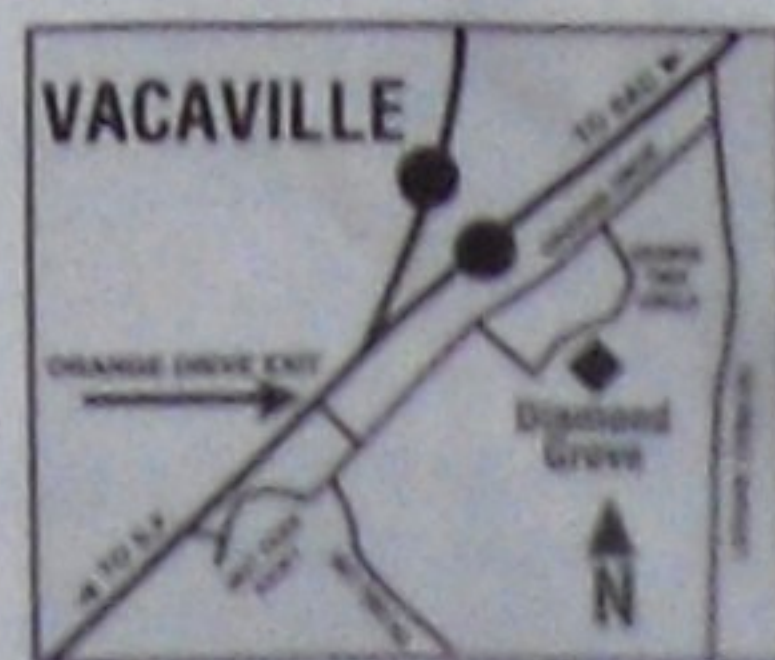
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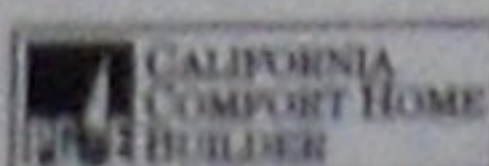
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Cliff Pollard/The Reporter

The Pacific Gas & Electric Company Vaca-Dixon substation today (above), just off Interstate 80 south of Meridian Road, was much celebrated by locals when it was built in the 1920s.

# VACAVILLE SCORES ELECTRIFYING VICTORY

## Largest electric substation in world built north of town

The pro-Vacaville forces of the 1920s had claimed victory over the "knockers" of the previous decade. They made it official in the fall of 1922, when 70 community leaders formed the Vacaville Boosters' Association. Even before adopting bylaws, the group planned its first promotional event: A celebration to mark Pacific Gas & Electric Co.'s completion of the substation just north of town.

A half-page advertisement urging residents to participate pointed up just how modern Vacaville had become:

"A great stage line has given her rapid, frequent and economical transportation to replace her poor old one train a day. Three progressive fruit companies have competed for outright purchase of her fruit crops. ... A branch warehouse of the great Diamond Match Co. is located in our midst. The Associated and Standard Oil companies have ... establish(ed) their distribution plants here. The Western Pacific Railroad Co. ... will shortly list our name in its time schedules and fortunes. The Sperry Milling Co. has a large warehouse and manufacturing plant here. ... It has remained, howev-

er, for the Pacific Gas & Electric Co. to give Vacaville not only national but international fame as the result of the building of its Vaca Substation. This substation is the largest in the world."

Whether it was such publicity or the promise of cameramen from the Pathe News Service being on hand, Vacaville welcomed PG&E with a mile-long procession of decorated cars and floats. It was, the Vallejo Chronicle said, "a parade that would be a credit to a more pretentious city."

In 1921, Pacific Gas & Electric began construction on its Pit River hydro-electric plant, located at Hat Creek. A substation to help deliver the soon-to-be-generated electric power was to be constructed in Vacaville, and work on that substation began in the summer of 1921. A

camp was established in Vacaville for some 100 PG&E employees, and they were all hard at work by November 1921. In July 1922, PG&E showed off its plant to a cadre of news reporters in advance of the substation's scheduled opening, set for early October 1922.

The Reporter invited all local residents

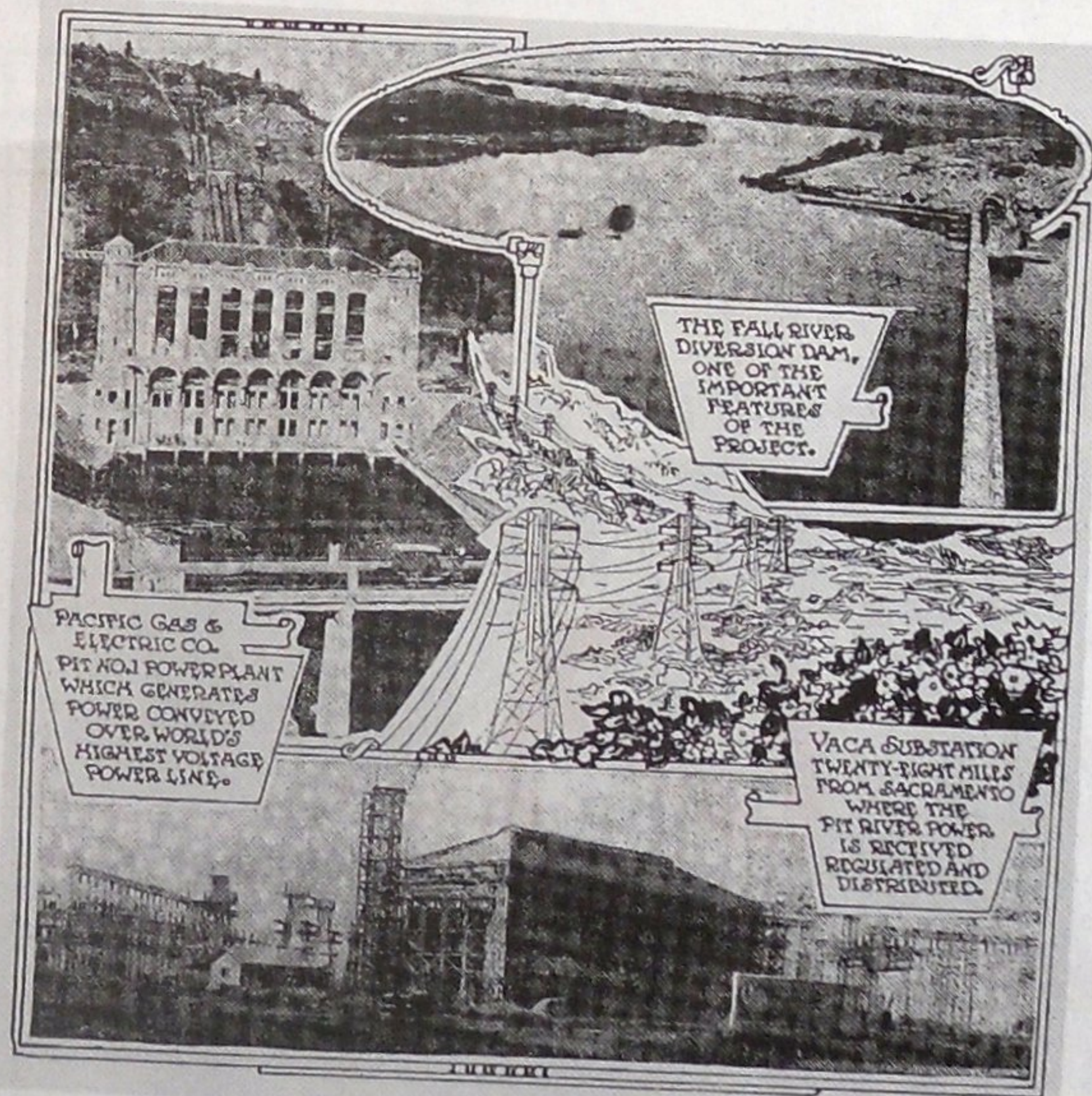


Healthful electric heat for cold days

A large portable electric heater gives beautiful, clean warmth quickly. It warms a room for dressing. Heats the bathroom for father's morning shave. Quickly dries mother's hair. Provides comforting heat in case of sickness. Helps keep the whole family well in winter months when the temperature suddenly changes.

When the children come home cold, a portable electric heater is ideal. It gives beautiful heat for their playroom. Provides safe warmth when you leave the children by themselves.

Have our electric heating representatives tell you about our special heating cases. **PG&E** Pacific Gas and Electric Company



Ads celebrate the substations's opening (above), and electricity's benefits (left).

to "show their loyalty" for the grand opening by wearing specially made Vacaville ribbons, which could be found at Ream's, Brook's pool room, Owen-Marlor's garage, or at The Reporter offices.

On the day the switch for power was to be thrown, celebrants enjoyed "pleasant weather, unbounded enthusiasm and united

effort." Along Main Street, flags and bunting decorated businesses and a parade was held. Elmer King was grand marshal, and other autos in the parade carried Joseph Vaca and Vidal Pena, as well as scores of schoolchildren. A \$25 prize from the Nut Tree was awarded to the best float.

— By Reporter staff

## Saturday Club president installed, past presidents honored

The first meeting of the season for the Saturday Club was held last week on Saturday at the Annex. Mrs. S.M. Dobbins, newly-installed president, presided in a most charming manner.

Following the regular business meeting, the remainder of the afternoon was given over to a program in honor of the past presidents of the club.

The main part of the program consisted of several suites of piano compositions played by a Baldwin reproducing grand piano. Mrs. Frank Thompson sang two numbers, accompanied by the grand piano.

A very interesting feature of the program was the escorting forward of each past president and her presentation to the members.

In response, each in her turn gave a resume of the club's life during her term as its presid-

ing officer.

This brief drawing aside of the curtains of Time exposing to view those many delightful pictures hanging on Memory's wall in this room of the Past, brought again recollections of the days when each was being painted and placed there, for the older members. For the newer members it served to acquaint them with the club's activities and to pass on to them the heritage of the past, so they also could live a part of its delightful romance and story.

Following is the list of past presidents, seven of whom participated in Saturday's program:

- Mrs. F.A. Steiger, 1909-12.
- Miss Edith Harbison, 1912-13.
- Miss Alda McBride, 1913-14.
- Mrs. G.M. Stroud, 1914-15.
- Mrs. W.C. Jenney, 1915-16.

- Mrs. F.B. McKevitt, 1916-18.
- Mrs. G.P. Akerly, 1918-19.
- Mrs. Walter Edwards, 1919-21.
- Mrs. E.C. Crystal, 1921-22.
- Mrs. James Caughy, 1922-23.
- Miss Ann Chubb, 1923-24.
- Mrs. Marion Brazelton, 1924-25.
- Mrs. Walter Schaefer, 1925-26.

Because of its uniqueness and its recall of old memories, this part of the program was cordially received by all. There was a very good attendance, which augurs well for the year's work ahead.

When the last picture had been viewed and the curtains dropped into place by the realities of the present, the girls of the Junior Auxiliary appeared in costume, and in a little song invited all to join in refreshments, which were

served in the parlors of the church.

Decorations of yellow and white were prominent, but outstanding was the huge birthday cake carrying its battery of candles — one for each past president of the club.

Mrs. F.A. Steiger, first president, blew out the candles and cut the cake, which was served with ice cream.

Preceding the afternoon's activities the past presidents enjoyed a luncheon at the Vacaville Inn. Mrs. S.M. Dobbins was guest of honor on the occasion.

So delightful did the festivity prove to be that it was decided by all present, to be made an annual event. Miss Edith Harbison, second president, was named as chairman for the luncheon for next year.

The Reporter  
Sept. 17, 1926



## Mystery fire razes St. Mary's church

St. Mary's Catholic church in Vacaville was destroyed by a spectacular fire shortly after 2 o'clock Thursday morning. Nightwatchman Waring turned in the alarm and the department responded promptly, but the interior of the building was a mass of flames by the time the firemen arrived and it was impossible to save the structure.

There is considerable mystery surrounding the origin of the fire, as it started in the interior of the church near the entrance, and there had been no service in the church since Tuesday evening, and no fire had been lighted then.

An investigation conducted by the officials during the day has increased the belief that it may be a case of incendiaryism. A small door was located near where the fire started, opening

under the floor, and in this space was found what was left of a coal oil can, and the charred remains of a quantity of burlap, which still retained the odor of coal oil.

Another curious coincidence is the fact that within the past two years a warehouse belonging to Mrs. Alice Bowles was twice burned down, and also the Foutz residence. These buildings were situated just across the street from the church, and in each case the fires started at about the same hour in the morning. The cause of all these fires has remained a mystery.

The loss will be greatly felt by the congregation, as the building and contents were only partially covered by insurance — \$5,000 is believed to be the total amount.

The Reporter  
March 13, 1923

## 3 jailed for wine possession

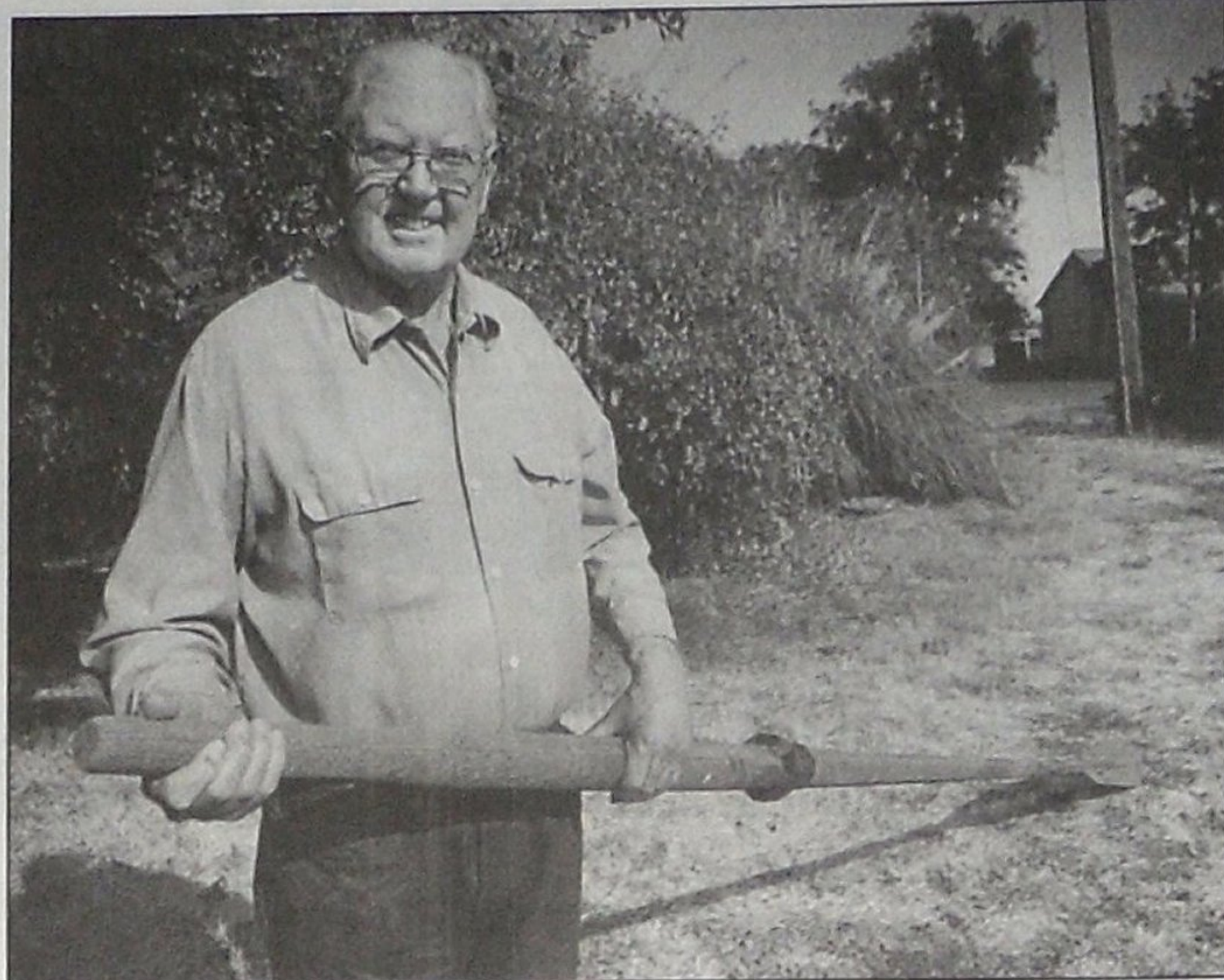
The district attorney and a posse of deputy sheriffs made a raid in the hills a week ago Thursday. They arrested E. Cafarelli, in whose residence they found evidence of illegal possession of wine and other liquors, and later visited the home of Tony Sardo and that of S. Gregorio, where more evidence was secured. As Cafarelli had a prior conviction against him, he was taken to the county jail, his bond being fixed at \$2,000, with sufficient sureties, by Justice Platt. Later a friend deposited cash for his appearance and he returned to his home, and the case will be called very shortly in the Superior Court.

Messrs. Sardo and Gregorio urged extenuating circumstances, claiming that the wine

upon their premises was mostly vinegar, but as they had failed to file the necessary application and secure permits for the manufacture of any fruit juice from the internal revenue department, and as a violation of this regulation, if pressed, would result in very severe penalties, they pleaded guilty to the charge of being in possession of intoxicating liquor and were fined \$250 each by Justice Platt.

The report circulated to the effect that the District Attorney had seen the defendants personally at a prior date and had not objected to their alcoholic activities, was proven without any foundation.

The Reporter  
Sept. 7, 1923



Reporter file photo

Morris Dally is pictured in August 1986 with an oar used to help the U.S. team win a gold medal in the 1928 Olympics in Amsterdam. He lived in Elmira until his death in 1996.

## Congratulations sent to Dally, U.S. team heading to Olympics

Morris Dally, a graduate of the Vacaville Union High School and a member of the victorious California crew which won the final try-out last Saturday for the right to represent the United States in the Olympic games was the recipient of the following telegrams sent early in the week:

"Congratulations on participating in successful events. Best of luck across the pond."

(Signed) Vacaville High School Alumni Assn.  
The second telegram read:

"City of Vacaville congratulates you on recent achievements in athletic field and wishes you luck in your coming event."

(Signed) CITY COUNCIL  
The California crew left New York Wednesday on board the steamship Roosevelt on their way to take part in the games at Amsterdam.

The Roosevelt has been specially chartered for the trip and besides the 268 athletes who will compete in the games, has many passengers who are going to witness the

event. The steamer will be the home of the athletes and passengers during the time they are away and is provisioned to accommodate those on board for that length of time.

The Reporter  
July 13, 1928

■ Editor's note: William Morris Dally and the California crew went on to capture the gold medal in the 1928 Amsterdam Olympics. Dally remained a lifelong Elmira resident, farmed for 42 years, and was very involved in the community. He died in June 1996 in VacaValley Hospital after a long illness. He was 88.

## Vacaville loses to Esparto

Twice a dark and stormy night last Saturday that opened the league season for basketball, with the local high school playing in Esparto. The sad part of this narrative is that the season opened in reverse English, for us at least. Even worse, it broke all past precedents set by our teams in regard to the Capay town.

In the past we have always emerged victorious with one or two games from Esparto, generally three, and for the first time in five years Esparto has done the hitherto impossible by capturing three games the same night from Vacaville.

The girls' team showed the best and came the nearest to victory, being defeated by only four baskets, in a style of basketball that is not played in Vacaville, characterized by its roughness. The team will improve and get over its stage fright before the Esparto girls come here.

Class A team gave Esparto a hard fight, but the unusual riding of Douglas Duncan, our main point winner, by three Espartois throughout the game cut our margin down greatly. There again our team was not out to play the same kind of a game played on it. Result, defeat, but not dishonor.

Class B team, due to inexperience and lack of practice, played the poorest game of the evening, therefore it has room for the greatest improvement. The boys tried hard, but were outclassed by a veteran team.

The Reporter  
Dec. 26, 1924

## Other banks are merging...



## ...but we've been on the right road for 89 years.

**FIRST NORTHERN BANK** is a locally owned bank serving the people and businesses of Solano and Yolo counties since 1910. In light of recent bank mergers, we thought you might like to know that.

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"The Roaring Twenties" — the period when restaurant dances became fashionable and people danced the Charleston and to jazz. The '20's girl was a little 'matters-of-fact and boyish', chic in the Paris café manner and girly dressed in short skirts. When the first beauty contest was held in 1921 on the beach of the Potomac River in Washington it was regarded as a big step forward in women's liberation. The era also became fashionable (although women at the time shouldn't have a bust!)

In 1927 Charles Lindbergh flew the Atlantic on the richest man in the world was Andrew Carnegie. The world danced and laughed and people let their hair down but there was still utter economic and political confusion in the world. The glittering scenes of the entertainment world concealed widespread poverty and uncertainty.

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## 1920-1929

THE PAST CENTURY

## County clerk tallies aliens

Completion of the data on alien registration as compiled by County Clerk G.G. Halliday, shows the Japanese to head the list with 502 registrants for Solano County, those coming next in order being Portuguese 432, Spaniards 358, Italians 205 and Greeks 166. The registration was 2,252.

Only twelve Hindus registered. They live on Ryer Island.

Of the 166 Greeks registered 101 registered from Vallejo and forty-seven from Benicia.

The town of Fairfield registered eighteen Portuguese, while the highest percentage of Japanese and Spaniards registered in Vacaville and vicinity.

The Reporter  
Aug. 12, 1921

## The complete registration by nationalities was as follows:

Japanese	502
Portuguese	432
Spaniards	358
Italian	205
Greek	166
Chinese	153
German	49
Swiss	37
English	33
Mexican	28
Danes	20
Irish	19
Canadian	15
Russian	13
Swedish	13
Turk	13
Hindus	12
Scotch	12
Philippine	10
Austrian	9
Australian	7
Hungarian	7
French	7
Poles	7
Brazilians	5
Dutch	5
Jamaican	3
Finnish	2
Maltese	2
New Zealanders	2
Argentinians	1
Armenian	1
Belgian	1
Norwegians	1
Nova Scotians	1
Servian	1
Syrians	1



Vacaville Museum

## Jump and jive

Jazz was the thing in the Roaring '20s. The 1924 Vacaville High School Jazz Band included, from left, Alfred Hughes, William Gentle, Louis Moore, Dorothy Hansen, Dorothy Arnold, William Aston, Thomas Buck, and Eddie Sullivan.

## Choral society calls for singers — especially men

Under the auspices of the Saturday Club, the Vacaville Choral Society is planning to hold its first rehearsal for the season on Thursday evening, Oct. 26, in the Grammar School Auditorium at 7:30 p.m., Dr. Douglas Wright directing.

A good singing society is an asset to any community, and the chief requisites for success are a sufficient number of singers — men and women in equal proportion — and a secure financial basis. Of these, the choral committee wishes to be assured before rehearsals commence.

Two forms of membership cards will be issued, giving all who desire to support the choral an opportunity of doing so and promising a full return for their money:

First — Active membership, \$3 for six months' rehearsals, including music, etc.

Second — An associate membership the terms of which will be announced later.

Two concerts will be given during the six-months' season, one of which has been purchased by the Saturday Club.

Special features of the Choral will

be male quartet work, a women's chorus, and an unaccompanied chorus. Careful drill will be given all the parts for the sake of those who do not read readily.

A canvass for membership will be made at once, and the result of this canvass will decide whether Vacaville will have a Choral this winter or not. In particular an appeal is made for male voices, as last year's Choral was seriously handicapped by the lack of men.

We ask you, then, residents of Vacaville, to lend your aid toward placing the Vacaville Choral Society

on a secure basis, both musically and financially.

If you can sing ever so little, purchase an active membership for three dollars, which gives the advantage of six months rehearsals under an excellent director and participation in two concerts. If you cannot sing, invest in an associate membership, for which full value will also be given in some form.

Mrs. F.A. Steiger  
Mrs. Chas. Peters  
Committee

The Reporter  
Oct. 20, 1922

## A PART OF HISTORY



**Vaca Hills Chapel**  
FUNERAL DIRECTORS  
caring since 1967

*"The Choice and Trust will be Yours  
The Responsibility is Ours."*

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## Stylish Women's Fashions

We offer personal, courteous service with a smile and prices that will put a smile on your face.

.....

*Between the outbreak of World War I and 1928, the quality of fabric invested in a woman's complete "costume" (as a whole outfit was then called) was reduced from 19-1/4 yards to seven. The fabric was lighter in weight, thanks to "art silk."*


**UPTOWN FASHIONS**

431 Main St., Downtown Vacaville  
707/452-1114  
Tues. - Fri., 10-6 • Sat., 10-5  
Evenings by appointment




Evening gown of silk with low, draped back

## "The Gun That Won The West" Winchester



Winchester Model 1873, a superior rifle with a steel mechanism and heavier center fire cartridges, which came to be called "The Gun That Won The West"



**GUNS & GEAR**

860 Alamo Drive (In Alamo Plaza)  
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• Unique Gifts  
• Gourmet Foods  
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### Vaca Valley Mercantile

354 Merchant St. 446-6333



# Cashing in on Vacaville

## Bank of Italy merges with local bank

While expansion was the declared goal of Vacaville's leaders in the 1920s, new businesses coming in often meant competition for those already here.

That was the case when the Bank of Italy came to town.

Many Italian families in the English Hills welcomed the bank, founded in 1904 by San Francisco businessman Amadeo Peter Giannini. They had known Giannini since the 1880s, when he made forays here to buy fruit for his father-in-law's produce business, according to "Vacaville: The Heritage of a California Community."

They also liked the way his bank operated. Where other financial institutions saw little value in courting small depositors or in making small loans, Bank of Italy sought them out. It also catered to ethnic minority communities, all the while pioneering what became known as branch banking.

The bank's arrival here was typical. Giannini simply folded the Bank of Vacaville into his statewide system. The merger came in 1922, not quite two years after the local bank had left the building where it was established in 1886 and moved into stately quarters at the corner of Main and Elizabeth streets.

The Vacaville Reporter applauded the arrangement, declaring that now the community would have "the same banking advantages as a metropolitan city."

Local management also was preserved. Clement Hartley, president of the Vacaville Fruit Company, continued as manager. He was assisted by E.J. Cox, who succeeded Hartley after his death in 1929. James R. McCrory and E.R. Thurber, also members of well-established local farming families, stayed on as cashiers.

It didn't take long for the First National Bank of Vacaville to be touting its local connections. "FOLKS! This is a

'home' bank," proclaimed a 1923 advertisement, "Built for 'home' folks. By 'home' folks — Your neighbors."

First National's ties to the community were as solid as its rival's. Formed in 1910 by businessmen who wanted more capital for local investments, its 1923 board included prominent fruit growers and merchants of the day: T.H. Buckingham, S.P. Dobbins, H.C. Blake, M.W. Brazelton, George A. Arnold, W.B. Attkison, Frank H. Clark and E.C. Andrews.

Vacaville supported both banks for a while, but in 1927, First National began a decline that would ultimately end with its absorption by Bank of Italy in the next decade.

Meanwhile, the Bank of Italy continued to strengthen its base by offering such services as loans to farmers so they could cover their expenses, while holding out for the better crop prices, rather than being forced to sell at bottom dollar to meet mortgage demands.

When it celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1929, the Bank of Italy — which would soon become the Bank of America — had 292 offices in 166 California cities, including Vacaville.

— By Karen Nolan  
Special to The Reporter



Reporter file photo

**NO. 6**  
**Great Events**  
**in California's**  
**History**



**Establishment of Sutter's Fort**

**JOHN SUTTER**, a Swiss adventurer, explorer and pioneer brought a party of 20 people from the Sandwich Islands in 1839 and obtained from the government of Spain a grant of land in the Sacramento Valley for colonization purposes. The government, considering Sutter friendly and progressive, gave him almost unlimited power. Having located his fort for the protection of his colony on the Sacramento River, he was in a position to extend help and hospitality and build up a fortune. All travel north and south and all emigration from the east touched at this point.

Sutter's Fort is still standing in the city of Sacramento—the capital city of the state—where one of the important branches of the Bank of Italy is located—and where the great historic celebration, "Days of '49" was held last year.

**Bank of Italy**  
Savings—Commercial—Trust  
Head Office — San Francisco

**VACAVILLE BRANCH**  
MAIN AND ELIZABETH STREETS  
C. M. HARTLEY, Vice-pres. and Mgr.

Italian families living in English Hills liked the founder of the bank, Amadeo Peter Giannini, and the way he operated the financial institution. The bank courted ethnic communities and small depositors, and was willing to make small loans. The classic small-town granite bank (above) still stands at the corner of Main and Elizabeth streets in downtown Vacaville. Bank of Italy ad in The Reporter (left) gave historical tidbits. The bank later became Bank of America.

## Dam plans form for Monticello

B.C. Rogers, the gentleman at the head of the Putah creek irrigation project, was present at the mid-week luncheon of the Vacaville Boosters' Association on Wednesday noon, and when called on by President Weyand briefly outlined the plans as developed by himself and his associates.

Mr. Rogers stated that eight months had been spent in a study of the Putah creek watershed and the results amply demonstrated that the project was feasible both from an engineering and an economic standpoint. The watershed contained 800 square miles, and there was sufficient water to cover 145,000 acres of land with three feet of water each year.

The proposed reservoir begins about four miles beyond Monticello, and, when full, will be about nine miles long and vary from a quarter to two miles in width. The dam will be approximately 120 feet high, 200 feet in length at the bottom and 650 feet on the top. It will be of the rock-and-dirt-fill type — fully 80 per cent of the dam in the United States being of this type. A dam of this size will impound sufficient water to insure a two-years' supply.

Water from this storage reservoir will be let out when needed and permitted to flow down the creek channel to another reservoir, which will be located in the vicinity of Sacketts'. From there it will be conducted by ditch. Roughly speaking, the main ditch will follow the railroad track south about as far as Allendale, where a lateral or laterals will divert a portion of the water to the Dixon section. From Allendale the ditch will turn slightly east and cross the highway between the Nut Tree and Bennett hill and continue south-east as far as necessary. All land east of the course thus outlined can be irrigated by gravity.

To put water on Vaca Valley or Pleasants Valley lands, it would have to be lifted, but Mr. Rogers stated that in other district this had been done 33 1/3 per cent cheaper than a man could pump from his own wells.

The Reporter  
Nov. 13, 1925

## Locals, Japanese tangle on diamond

Drawing the record crowd of the season, the local ball team defeated the local Japanese ball team Monday, July 4th, in one of the finest games in a long time. The game was played on the local Japanese diamond. A crowd of 250 was estimated at the game.

The Japanese boys played real ball and made the locals tighten up many time to hold down their long hits. In the fifth inning, with the bases full, a fast double play by Zupo to B. Burton to Bassford saved the game for the locals. In the third inning Elmer tripled, Bassford hit one to the short-

stop, who threw to first, and here is where Bassford and Tsuruda tangled, both doing a somersault, causing the Japanese player to retire. Had he been able to play the rest of the game the Japanese would have made a better showing in the game.

Although the Japanese were defeated, they showed their ability to play clean ball, and all through the game not one of the boys stopped to argue. They were able to pile up the close score of 5 to 4 in the fastest game of the season.

The Reporter  
July 8, 1927

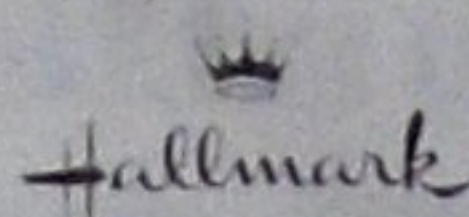


Vacaville Museum

This team of Japanese baseball players from Vacaville beat a team from Suisun, 3-2, in August 1926.

## A Family Tradition Bowman's Stationers

John Bowman returned from the European War in 1946 to complete his last year at the University of California, Berkeley. He graduated in 1947 and met Marge, who became his wife. They were married in Turlock, California in 1948.



322 Parker St. • Downtown Vacaville • 447-8430



John and Marge Bowman



Del McCune marries Elizabeth Ann Gabel in April 1937. Del and his wife came to Vacaville in 1938 looking to start his own business. The Stewart Funeral Home on Main Street was for sale and Del bought the business—the only funeral home in what was then a town of 1,500.

## McCune GARDEN CHAPEL

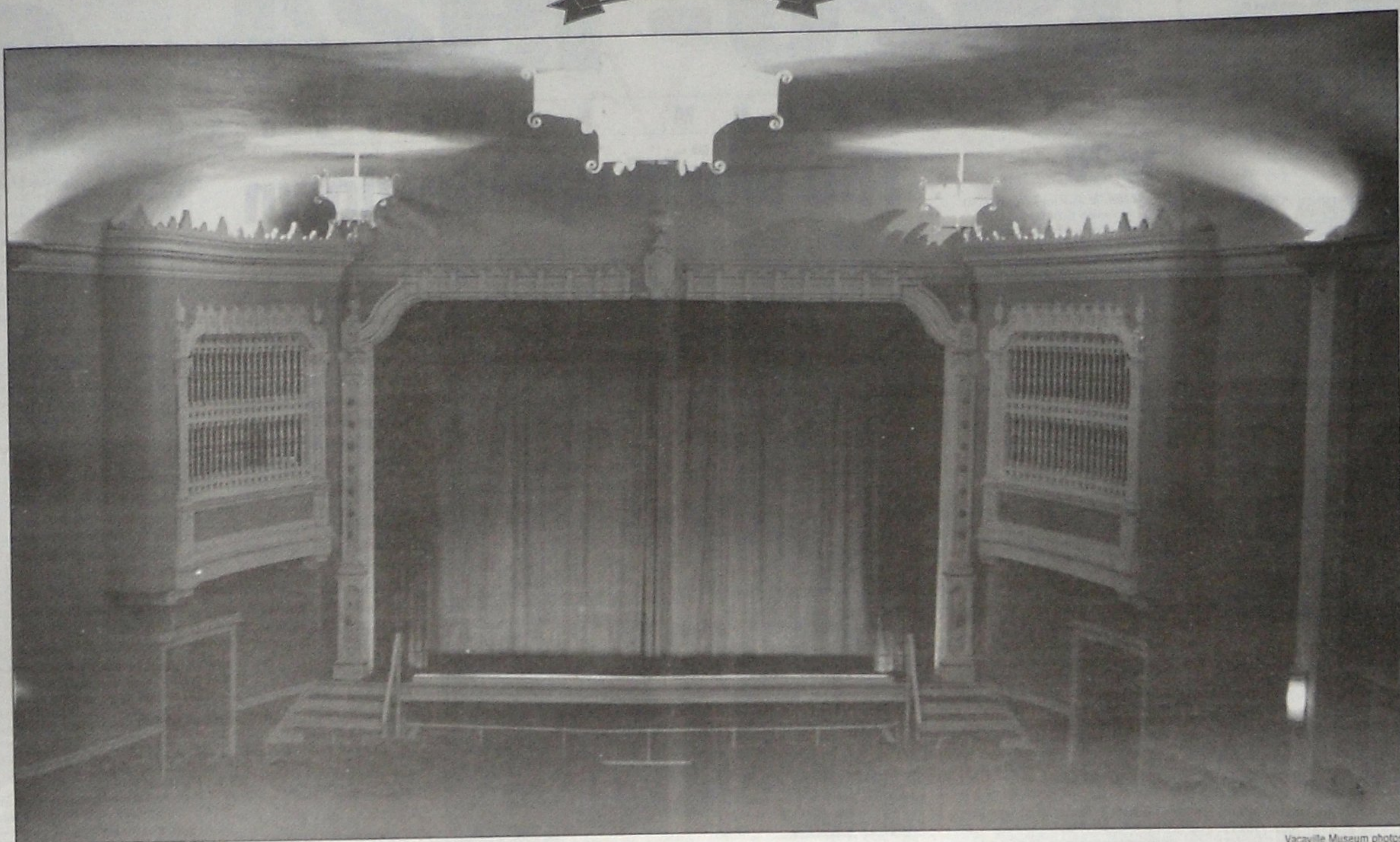
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# REPORTER 1920-1929

THE PAST CENTURY



Vacaville Museum photos

The 422-seat hall boasted the most modern facilities around, including a cooling system for hot weather. Later the sound system was modernized for talking pictures.

# Lights, camera, Vacaville!

## Modern theater opens its doors

By Julie Davidow/Staff Writer

Opening on July 30, 1926, the Clark Theatre on Main Street was built by owner W.J. Clark to showcase live entertainment and screenings of Hollywood's latest productions.

The 422-seat theater boasted the most modern facilities available, including a cooling system for hot weather.

"Vacaville now has a beautiful, modern playhouse," gushed The Reporter after previewing the new theater located at the corner of Main and Parker streets.

So particular was the proprietor about the theater's standards that the original opening date of July 23 was pushed back a week to redo the flooring.

The town's residents turned out on opening night "en masse," according to The Reporter, to enjoy the world premiere of Paramount Picture's "Mantrap," starring Clara Bow.

Mrs. S.M. Dobbins and her mother, Mrs. Voodry, served as theater organists, operating a "modern instrument" that featured 600 pipes and drums, cymbals, chimes and xylophone, all capable of producing "the effects of orchestra instruments and modulations to imitate human voices," The Reporter said.

Vacaville's first "talkie" debuted on June 5, 1929, after the Clark installed vitaphone equipment.

"A crowded house greeted the first showing of talking pictures Wednesday night," said The Reporter. "The feature picture, 'Weary River' with Richard Barthelmess, was greatly enjoyed."

## Talking Pictures CLARK THEATRE Sunday, June 30th



Wednesday and Thursday  
July 3 and 4



Talking pictures, like those listed in the ad (above) from The Reporter, arrived three years after the Clark Theatre opened in July 1926.



Movie starlet Ruth Hughes receives a gift from local businessman Fred Deakin outside the Clark Theatre, while theater owners Mr. and Mrs. W.J. Clark standby. The man at left was not identified.

## 'The Tramp' double returns home

Charles Amador, Charlie Chaplin's double, who has been playing at the Strand, states that he resided here in 1908, and attended the public school. He is planning to return some time this year and play in a two-reel comedy. Mr. Johnson, a motion picture director, who is with the company, would also like to produce several comedies in this vicinity if the necessary arrangements can be made.

Among the theatrical people, Vacaville can claim the following as former residents:  
Billy Rhodes, motion picture star.  
Mr. Swim, the director.  
Charles Amador, comedian.  
Nate Holt, theatrical manager.

The Reporter  
June 16, 1922

## 1929 Academy Awards

First year the awards were given for movies made in 1927-1928.

Best Picture: "Sunrise"

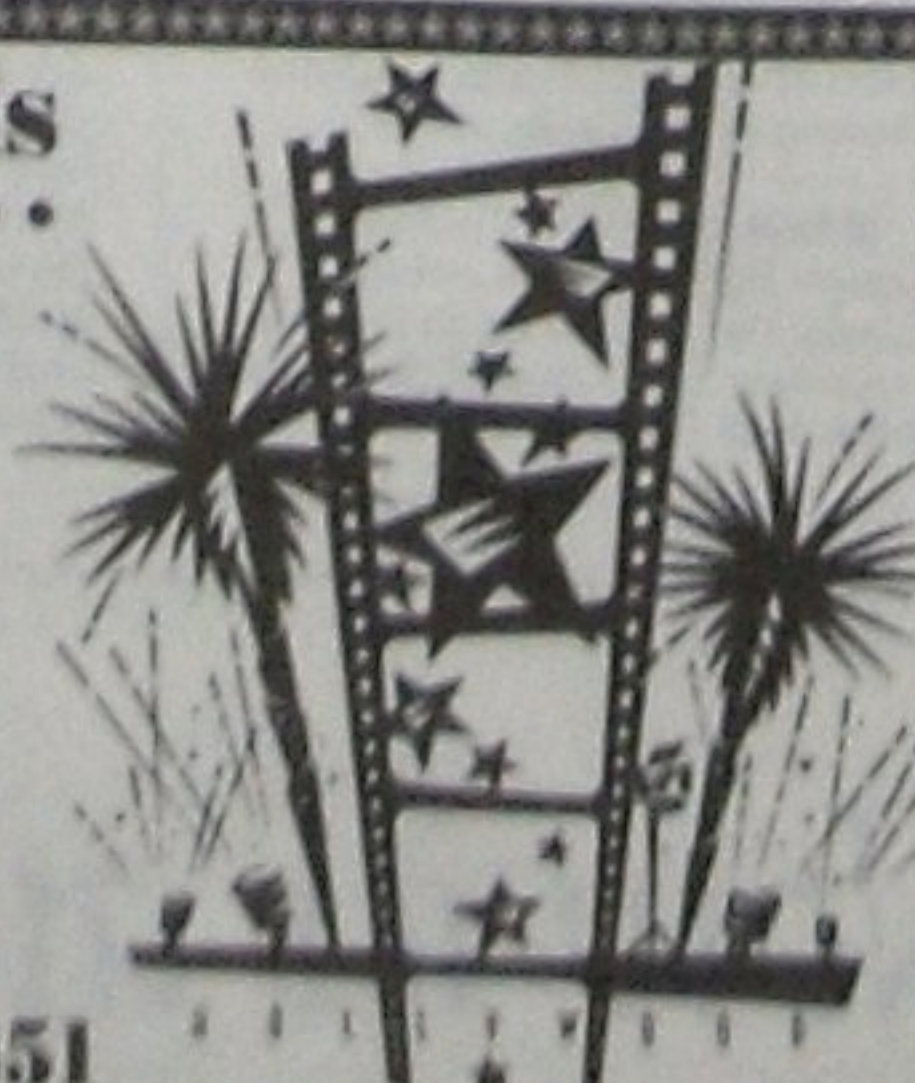
Best Production: "Wings"

Best Actor: Emil Jannings for "Last Command and Way of all Flesh"

Best Actress: Janet Gaynor for "Seventh Heaven"

Vacaville Music

359 Merchant St., Vacaville 707-448-3651



## Pedaling back the years

Introduced just after the First World War this "classic" design featured automobile and motorcycle elements to appeal to kids who, presumably, would rather have a motor. This bike evolved into the most glamorous, fabulous, ostentatious, heavy designs ever. It is unbelievable today that 14-year-old kids could do the tricks that we did on these 65 pound machines! They were built into the middle 50s, by which time they had taken on design elements of jet aircraft and even rockets.



Ray's Cycle

400 Main St., Downtown Vacaville, 448-1911  
1121 Texas St., Downtown Fairfield, 428-1911





# 1920-1924

M I L L E N N I U M N O T E B O O K

## BIRTHS

Isaac Asimov, biochemist and science fiction writer, 1/2/20  
 Federico Fellini, film director, 1/20/20  
 Karol Wojtyla (Pope John Paul II), 5/18/20  
 Charlie "Yardbird" Parker, jazz saxophonist, 8/29/20  
 Stan Musial, baseball player, 11/21/20  
 Betty Friedan, feminist leader, 2/4/21  
 Andrei Sakharov, Russian physicist and dissident, 5/21/21  
 John Glenn, astronaut and senator, 7/18/21  
 Alex Haley, author, 8/11/21  
 Roy Campanella, baseball player, 11/19/21



Yitzhak Rabin, Israeli prime minister, 3/1/22  
 Judy Garland, entertainer, 6/10/22  
 Pierre Cardin, fashion designer, 7/7/22  
 Charles Schultz, cartoonist, 11/26/22

Ava Gardner, actress, 12/24/22  
 Norman Mailer, author, 1/31/23  
 Marcel Marceau, mime, 3/22/23  
 Henry Kissinger, secretary of state, 5/27/23  
 Rocky Marciano, boxer, 9/1/23  
 Hank Williams, country singer, 9/17/23  
 Alan Shepard, astronaut, 11/18/23  
 Marlon Brando, actor, 4/3/24  
 George H. W. Bush, president, 6/12/24  
 James Baldwin, author, 8/2/24  
 Lauren Bacall, actress, 9/16/24  
 Truman Capote, novelist, 9/30/24  
 Jimmy Carter, president, 10/1/24

## PASSAGES

### Franz Kafka

Author Franz Kafka dies June 3, 1924, at age 40 in a tuberculosis sanatorium in Austria. He is best known for his novels "The Trial," "The Castle," and "Amerika," and for his short story "The Metamorphosis."

### Lillian Russell

Soprano Lillian Russell, a flamboyant figure of the "Gay Nineties," dies June 6, 1922 at age 61. She is famous for her leading roles in the operettas of Gilbert and Sullivan.

## JOURNALISM



### Magazines debut

Henry Luce and Briton Hadden, classmates at Hotchkiss and Yale, establish an institution of American journalism on March 3, 1923, with publication of the first issue of Time magazine. It compresses the week's happenings in the world into 28 pages, minus six pages of advertising sold at giveaway rates.

Reader's Digest makes its debut in February 1922 in New York with articles "of lasting interest" condensed from books and other magazines into a pocket-size monthly.

Fruit, Garden and Home, whose name will be changed to Better Homes and Gardens, begins publication in 1922 in Des Moines, Iowa.

## PRODUCTS

### Chanel No. 5

In 1922, Coco Chanel introduces Chanel No. 5, which will become the world's best-known perfume. The French-born couturier launches the movement toward simplicity, practicality and unfussy elegance in women's clothing.

## CRAZES

### Crossword puzzles

Crossword mania sweeps the nation in April 1924 after a new publishing company owned by Richard Simon and M. Lincoln Schuster puts out the first book of crosswords.

### Mah-jongg

W.A. Hammond, a San Francisco lumber merchant, imports thousands of sets of mah-jongg, a Chinese tile game, in 1922. It soon becomes a national craze. The wealthy buy \$500 sets, the Mah-jongg League of America is formed, and many a dinner party ends with guests setting up ivory and bamboo tiles on green tables.

## 1920

**Jan. 2:** Justice Department agents sweep through 33 U.S. cities and arrest almost 3,000 people suspected of being anarchists, communists or radicals of other anti-government persuasions. The "Red scare" raids lead to mass deportations of political "undesirables."

**Feb. 24:** A few unhappy, alienated veterans who have formed the German Workers Party in Munich release a list of their goals and programs. The party attacks Jews, large property owners and capitalists. Its propaganda chief is Adolf Hitler.

**June:** For the first time in history, an American man takes a Wimbledon tennis championship. William "Big Bill" Tilden, 27, wins the men's singles crown in England with his cannonball serve and deceptive speed.

**Oct. 12:** Legendary race-horse Man O'War ends a spectacular career with a spectacular win — a seven-length victory in a match race at Windsor, Ontario. Man O'War has been defeated only once in his career, by the aptly named Upset, who carried 15 pounds less weight during the race. Thirty years down the road, Man O'War will be named the greatest thoroughbred of the first half of the 20th century.

**Nov. 2:** Weary of the somber idealism of President Woodrow Wilson and the austerity of war, Americans are ready for a change. It comes with the election of Warren G. Harding (pictured), an affable, distinguished-looking former newspaper publisher and U.S. senator from Ohio.

**Dec. 10:** President Wilson is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in Norway for his work in establishing the League of Nations. The victory is bittersweet; the U.S. Senate voted in March not to participate in the league.

**Dec. 14:** The British Parliament approves the division of Ireland into two territories, an act that will pour fuel on an already combustible situation. The northern territory will be the scene of violence between the Catholic minority and Protestant majority for the rest of the century.

## 1921

**May 10:** President Harding issues an executive order transferring management of the Navy's emergency oilfield deposits to the Interior Department. One of the oilfields is at Teapot Dome, Wyo. Interior Secretary Albert Fall secretly leases Teapot Dome to private oil operators Harry Sinclair and Edward Doheny. The Teapot Dome oilfield will later provide the name for the biggest scandal of the Harding administration.

**June 15:** After seven months of instruction by French and German aviators, Bessie Coleman receives a pilot's certificate from the Federation Aeronautique Internationale in Paris. She is the first black woman to become a licensed pilot and the first person of any race or sex to receive an international pilot's license, allowing her to fly in any part of the world. She returns to the United States as a celebrity and for the next five years will perform in air shows, encouraging black Americans to go into aviation. She will die in an air crash in 1926.

**June 30:** Former President William Howard Taft, who once declared "politics makes me sick," becomes chief justice of the Supreme Court.

**Sept. 7:** The Atlantic City Chamber of Commerce, in an effort to keep tourists at the New Jersey shore past Labor Day, stages a "Fall Frolic." Area newspapers ask readers to submit photographs of beautiful women and the winners are invited to Atlantic City to participate in a beauty contest. Margaret Gorman, a petite 16-year-old representing Washington, D.C., is crowned the first Miss America.

## The world upside-down



## 'Jazz Age' makes scene

That uniquely American genre of music, jazz, becomes widely popular in the 1920s and gives a name to this raucous, uninhibited period of U.S. history — the Jazz Age. Its birthplace is generally considered to be New Orleans, specifically the brothels and saloons of Storyville, a legalized red-light district closed down in 1917 for its "unwholesome influence" on sailors on shore leave. Out-of-work musicians migrate north and take their music to such cities as Chicago, St. Louis and Kansas City. And so it happens that



LOUIS ARMSTRONG

on a July afternoon in 1922, a 22-year-old cornetist named Louis Armstrong boards a train in New Orleans and heads for Chicago to join his mentor, Joseph "King" Oliver, and Oliver's Creole Jazz Band.

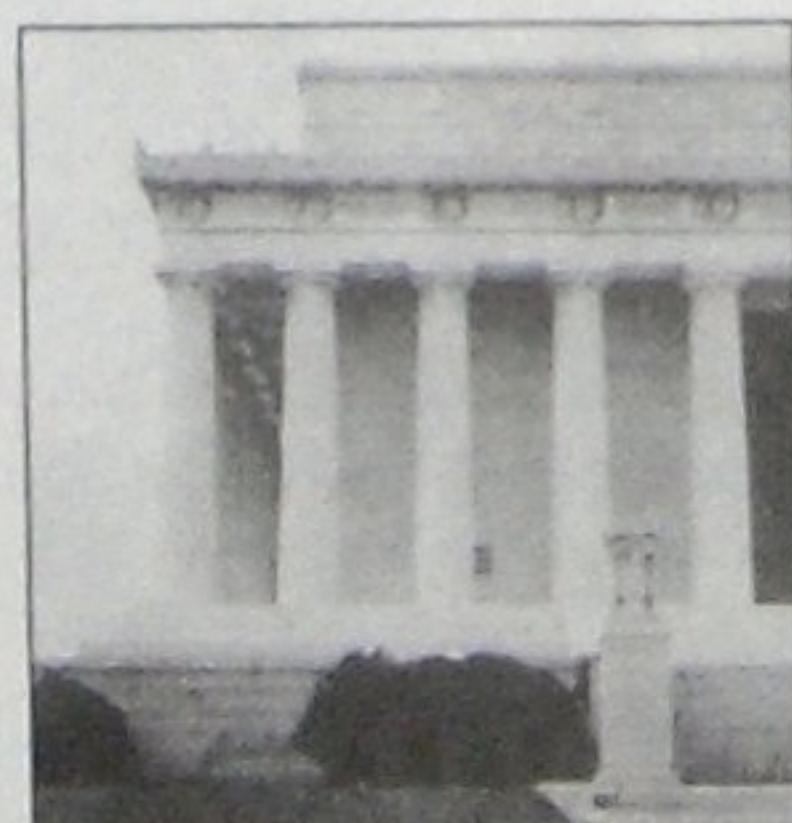
What Armstrong, who will become known as "Satchmo," brings to the bandstand is improvised solos on the cornet, and later on the trumpet. Operating within the basic structure of a jazz piece, his trumpet soars off into new melodies with never a clashing note. White musicians will soon take up the style in greater numbers.

photographs of beautiful women and the winners are invited to Atlantic City to participate in a beauty contest. Margaret Gorman, a petite 16-year-old representing Washington, D.C., is crowned the first Miss America.

## 1922

**Feb. 25:** Henri-Desire Landru, the so-called modern Bluebeard, is guillotined in Versailles, France, for the murders of 10 women and a young boy.

**April 3:** Josef Stalin is elected general secretary of the Central Committee of the Russian Communist Party.



**May 30:** The Lincoln Memorial is dedicated in Washington, D.C., after seven years of construction at a cost of \$2,940,000. The central feature of the memorial, designed by architect Henry Bacon, is a 19-foot-tall seated figure of the nation's 16th president sculpted in Georgian marble by Daniel Chester French.

**June 14:** In a silent march in Washington, blacks from every state demonstrate their support for a bill to make lynching a federal crime. The measure passes in the House but fails in the Senate. There are 57 reported lynchings in 1922.

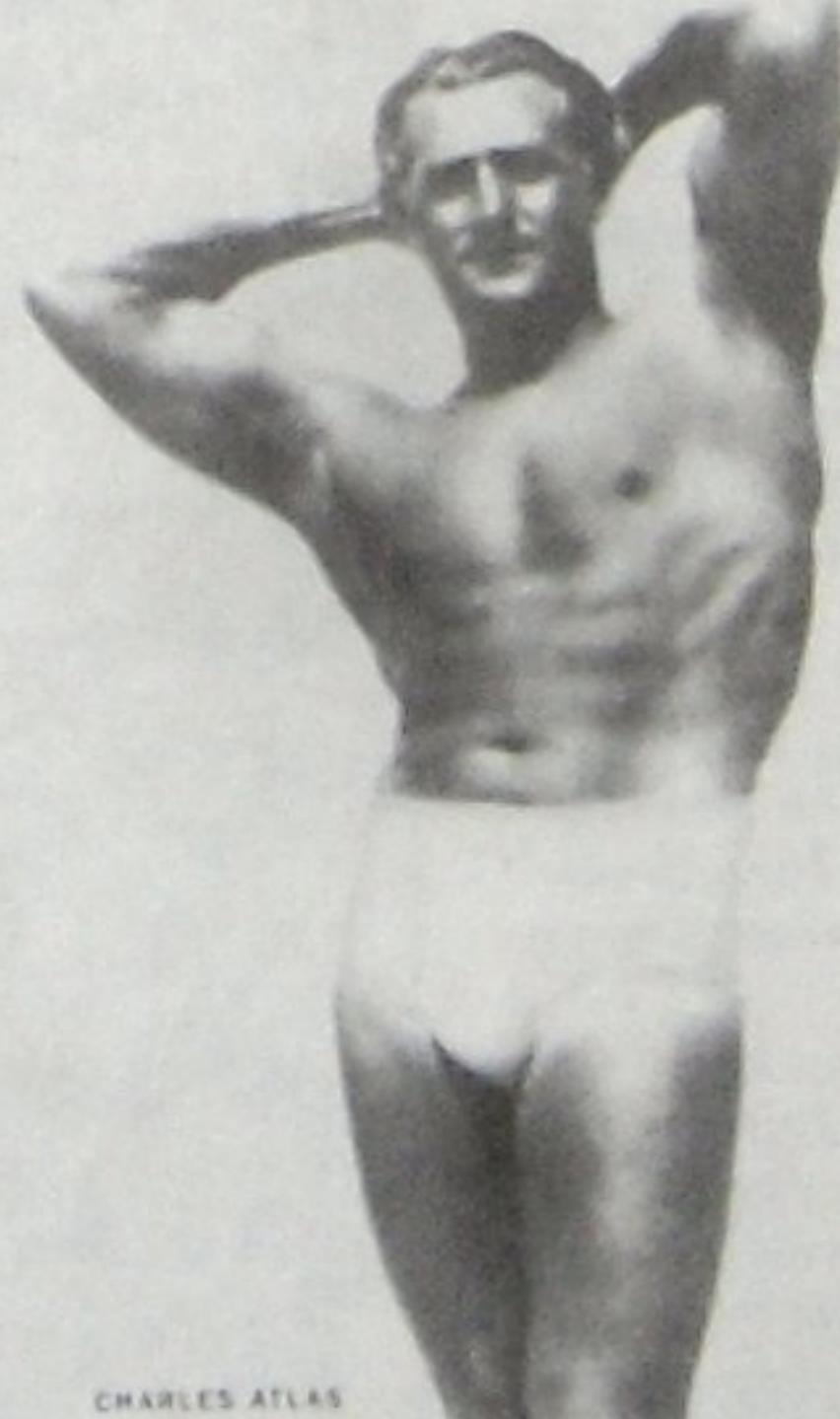
**Oct. 2:** WEAF in New York is the first to broadcast a football

## A perfectly developed man

Among the throng of immigrants arriving at Ellis Island in 1903 was a scrawny 10-year-old boy from Italy named Angelo Siciliano. In the rough and tumble world of New York City, young Siciliano often falls prey to bullies. So he decides to transform himself into a superb physical specimen.

By age 17, Siciliano develops his "dynamic tension" total fitness method, builds up his skinny frame, enters fitness contests, and in 1922 wins the "most perfectly developed man" contest at Madison Square Garden.

Siciliano changes his name to Charles Atlas. In 1928, he will meet Madison Avenue advertising executive Charles Roman. Together, they will found Charles Atlas Ltd. and offer a mail-order fitness program. Within months, inadequate teens throughout the nation are sending off for the body-building program.



CHARLES ATLAS

game, a 21-18 victory of Princeton over the University of Chicago. The coast-to-coast broadcast from Chicago uses long-distance telephone lines.

**Oct. 3:** Rebecca Felton, 87, of Georgia, becomes the first woman U.S. senator. Her term, to which the governor of Georgia appoints her after the death of Sen. Thomas Watson, lasts one day.

**Nov. 5:** After six years of fruitless digging in Egypt's Valley of the Kings, British archaeologist Howard Carter discovers "a magnificent tomb with seals intact." The contents of the tomb, identified by the seals as that of the boy pharaoh Tutankhamen, include a coffin of solid gold with a painted likeness of the young king.

**Dec. 30:** With Vladimir Lenin's Bolsheviks in power in Russia, the ancient nation gets a new name: the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

## 1923

**Feb. 17:** A young black woman named Bessie Smith records "Tain't Nobody's Bizness If I Do" and "Down-Hearted Blues," introducing America to a new kind of music called "the blues." The record sells 2 million copies within a year.

**April 18:** Yankee Stadium, "the house that Ruth built," opens before 74,200 fans, with 25,000 turned away. Fittingly, Babe Ruth hits a three-run homer off Howard Ehmke as the Yankees defeat the Boston Red Sox, 4-1.

**April 21:** Dance marathons are all the rage. Magdalene Wolfe of Cleveland sets a world record by holding the dance floor for 73 hours. Four months later, city fathers in Kalamazoo, Mich., pass an ordinance forbidding dancing couples from gazing into each other's eyes.

**Aug. 2:** Exhausted by a transcontinental tour that takes him as far as Alaska, President Warren G. Harding is resting in San Francisco when he suffers a stroke and dies. Harding's body is returned to Washington by special train. Calvin Coolidge (pictured) takes the oath of office as the 30th president in Plymouth, Vt.



**Sept. 1:** An earthquake and fire ravage Tokyo and Yokohama. Estimates of dead and injured vary widely, but at least 91,000 are thought to have been killed, more than 750,000 to be injured and 13,000 to be missing.

**Oct. 24:** Oklahoma Gov. J.C. Dalton, who incurred the wrath of the Ku Klux Klan by calling out the National Guard in September to combat the Klan's "insurrection," is impeached and ousted from office by the state Senate.

**Dec. 24:** President Coolidge presses a switch with his foot to illuminate 3,000 bulbs on the first National Christmas Tree on the Ellipse. The president, known as "Silent Cal," doesn't make a speech.

## 1924

**Jan. 21:** In the Soviet Union, Vladimir Ilyich Lenin dies at age 54. Lenin, the first Communist head of state and mastermind of the Russian Revolution, laid the groundwork for a dictatorship that will later be perfected by a former seminary student turned political thug, Josef Stalin.

**Feb. 3:** In Washington, former President Woodrow Wilson dies in his sleep at home. Hundreds of mourners keep a solemn vigil throughout the night. Just days earlier, Wilson had told a friend, "I am a broken piece of machinery."

**Feb. 8:** The first prisoner ever executed in a gas chamber is Chinese immigrant Gee Jon, convicted of killing a fellow tong, or gang, member. The execution is carried out at the state prison at Carson City, Nev.

**April 3:** The 950-foot, 54,882-ton ship Vaterland is launched from Hamburg, Germany, but has the misfortune of being caught in New York harbor at the outbreak of World War I and seized as war spoils. Renamed the SS Leviathan, "the largest ship in the world" begins service as an American liner.

**May 10:** J. Edgar Hoover becomes director of the Bureau of Investigation — the "Federal" will not be added until 1935 — and launches a series of crime-fighting innovations: a training academy, a fingerprint file and a scientific crime lab. He vows to administer the agency with "no politics and no outside influence."

**May 21:** The body of Bobby Franks, 14, is found in a marsh, naked and doused with acid in an attempt to conceal his identity. Horned-rim glasses found at the scene lead police to law student Nathan Leopold, 18, and Richard Loeb, 19, who confess to the killing. After a dramatic defense by lawyer Clarence Darrow in what is called the "trial of the century," the duo is convicted and sentenced to life in prison.

**May 26:** Congress passes the Johnson-Reed Immigration Act, severely limiting the number of immigrants allowed into the United States. Quotas for each country are based on the population of each ethnic group in 1890. East European immigrants are hit the hardest; they are coming to the United States in greater numbers, but were not a big part of the population in 1890. Asians are excluded completely.

**Aug. 5:** Little Orphan Annie, one of the most successful and longest-running of American comic strips, makes its debut in the New York Daily News. The strip, which will spawn a decade-long radio show, three movies and two New York stage musicals, is created by Harold Gray. Over the years, the spunky ward of "Daddy" Warbucks will take on the communists, crooked politicians, gangsters and the Nazis.

**Nov. 4:** Calvin Coolidge is elected president in his own right.



# The Past Century - Now it's available online.



# 1925

■ **Feb. 21:** The first issue of The New Yorker is published, with a cover of a Regency dandy (who later will be dubbed Eustace Tilley). The 32-page edition of literature, fiction, commentary and criticism costs 15 cents.



■ **March 18:** The deadliest tornado system in U.S. history rips through Missouri, Illinois and Indiana, killing 689 people, injuring thousands and causing millions of dollars in property damage.

■ **May 13:** The Florida Legislature passes a bill requiring daily Bible readings in all public schools.

■ **March 21:** Tennessee Gov. Austin Peay signs into law a ban on teaching the theory of evolution in schools. The American Civil Liberties Union reacts by offering to defend any teacher willing to test the law's constitutionality. John Thomas Scopes, a substitute biology teacher, takes up the call. The "Evolution Trial" begins July 10 with ACLU lawyer Clarence Darrow leading the defense. The prosecution's star is William Jennings Bryan, a fixture in American politics who stands by the literal interpretation of the Bible. On July 21, Scopes is found guilty and fined \$100.

■ **Nov. 28:** Grand Ole Opry has its start as the WSM Barn Dance, broadcast on Nashville radio station WSM. The name of the Saturday night show will be changed to Grand Ole Opry in 1927.

■ **Dec. 12:** The nation's first motel opens in San Luis Obispo, Calif. James Vail's Motel Inn, with accommodations for 160 guests, is on the busy coastal highway.

# 1926

■ **Jan. 27:** Scottish inventor M. John Baird demonstrates the wireless transmission of moving pictures on a cathode ray tube; he calls it "television."

■ **March 16:** Robert H. Goddard, a 43-year-old physics instructor at Clark University in Worcester, Mass., meets with two assistants on a frozen farm field and detonates the world's first liquid-fuel (oxygen and gasoline)



rocket. It flies 184 feet and attains an altitude of 41 feet and a top speed of 64 mph before landing in a cabbage patch. It is hardly a journey into the cosmos, but it is a milestone for rocket science.

Recognized as the father of American rocketry, Goddard will not live to see the Space Age he helped launch. He will die in 1945.

■ **April 26:** Mae West is arrested in New York City for performing in the play "Sex," in which she stars as a prostitute. The Society for the Suppression of Vice persuades police to close the show.

■ **June 9:** New York Telephone offers home phones at \$4 a month.

■ **June 19:** 20,000 Indians trek to Little Bighorn in Montana to commemorate the battle that defeated Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer 50 years earlier.

■ **Aug. 6:** New Yorker Gertrude Ederle, 19, is the first woman to swim the English Channel, setting a record of 14 hours, 31 minutes. Male swimmers break her record within the year.

■ **Aug. 28:** The United States sends Marines to Nicaragua to protect Americans against a left-

# 1925-1929

## MILLENNIUM NOTEBOOK

ist rebel named Augusto Cesar Sandino who tried in May to overthrow the rightist government. The Marines will stay until 1933, when Sandino will be executed, but in 1979, his namesake Sandinistas will finally overthrow the government, and the U.S. will again become embroiled in a Central American civil war.

■ **Sept. 25:** Ford Motor Co. in Detroit begins a 40-hour, five-day work week. Pay is \$6 a day.

■ **Nov. 15:** The first regular radio network broadcast, a variety show from WEAF in New York, is carried by 21 NBC affiliates.

■ **Dec. 5:** Famous mystery novelist Agatha Christie disappears from her home in Sunningdale, England. Eleven days later, she is discovered at a health spa hotel, joining other guests in games and conversation, but suffering from amnesia.

■ **Dec. 25:** In Japan, an era ends with the death of the 47-year-old Emperor Yoshihito. He is succeeded by his son, Hirohito.

# 1927

■ **Jan. 7:** A black basketball team organized by Chicago businessman Abe Saperstein plays its first game in Hinkle, Ill., before a crowd of 300 for a total payout of \$75. Called the Savoy Big Five, the team sets out on the road in Saperstein's Model T Ford and later becomes known as the Harlem Globetrotters.

■ **March 7:** A Texas law banning the vote for blacks is ruled unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court.



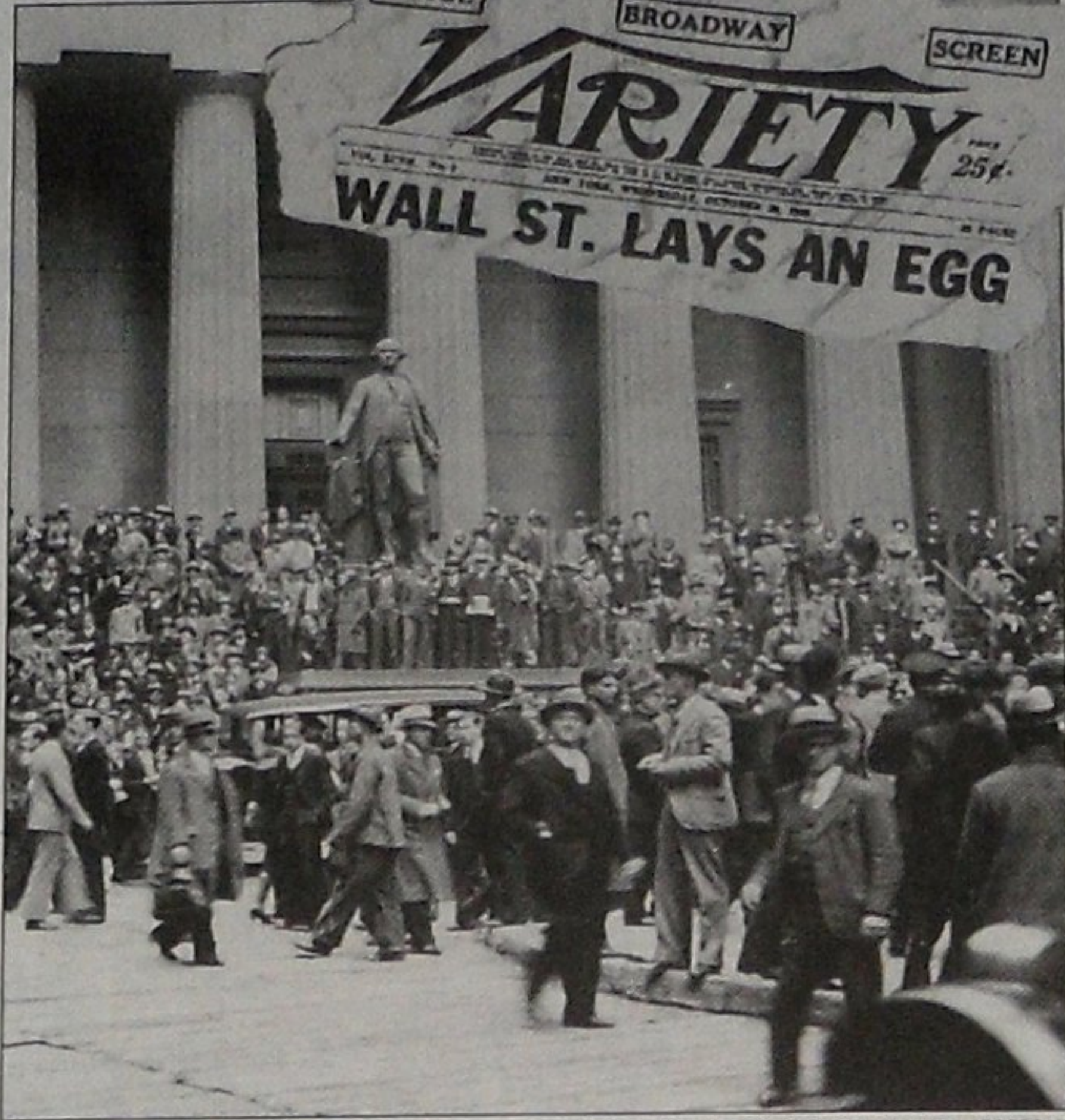
■ **May 19:** "Wings," a silent World War I epic filmed in San Antonio, Texas, makes its premiere. The movie stars Clara Bow and Buddy Rogers and features the film debut of Gary Cooper, who briefly appears on screen. On May 16, 1928, "Wings" will be the first film to win an Academy Award for Best Picture.

■ **Aug. 23:** Italian-born anarchists Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti are executed in Dedham, Mass., for the 1920 murder of a paymaster and shoe factory guard during a payroll holdup in South Braintree, Mass. Many believed that Sacco and Vanzetti were not given a fair trial because of the anti-immigrant sentiment pervasive at the time. Their guilt is still debated today.

■ **Sept. 22:** A battered Gene Tunney defeats Jack Dempsey in a heavyweight title fight best known for the long count. In the seventh round at Chicago's Soldier Field, Dempsey floors Tunney with a crushing left to the jaw. But Dempsey does not return to a neutral corner, causing a delay in the count. The extra six seconds allow Tunney to recover, and he goes on to win the fight by a unanimous decision.

■ **Sept. 30:** Babe Ruth (right), hits his 60th home run of the season against the Washington Senators at Yankee Stadium. Ruth's record will stand until another Yankee, Roger Maris, will hit 61 in 1961. But the record books will note that The Babe accomplished his feat in a 154-game season, and Maris had 161 games to break the 60-mark. "If I'd tried for them dinky singles," Ruth said, only half boastfully, "I could've batted around .600." Many regard the 1927 Yankees as baseball's best team ever.

■ **Oct. 6:** "The Jazz Singer" makes its debut as the first film with spoken dialogue. Warner Bros., then a fledgling studio, makes the film with Vitaphone technology developed by Bell Labs.



Brokers scramble outside the Stock Exchange on Wall Street.

# The crash of '29

## Dow comes a tumblin' down

The reckless optimism of the Jazz Age fuels a decade of spectacular gains on Wall Street. But the autumn of 1929 brings omens of impending calamity. There are hints of a worldwide economic slowdown and warnings from some experts that stocks are grossly overpriced. Stock prices peak in early September, then weaken. On Oct. 24, panic sets in. Bankers step in and stabilize the market, but not before nearly 13 million shares change hands on what becomes known as Black Thursday.

It should have been called Gray Thursday. For the following Tuesday, Oct. 29, proves to be one of the most devastating days in economic history. More than 16.4 million

shares are traded, and the Dow Jones industrial average plunges more than 12 percent. It is indeed a Black Tuesday.

The headline on Variety, the New York show-business daily, for Wednesday, Oct. 30, reads: "WALL ST. LAYS AN EGG." Any illusions that the wild trading is simply an "adjustment" are abandoned, and the next day is nearly as bad. At least one prominent investor shoots himself, but there is no record of anyone emulating the market's plunge by leaping from a skyscraper window.

Did The Crash cause the Great Depression that followed?

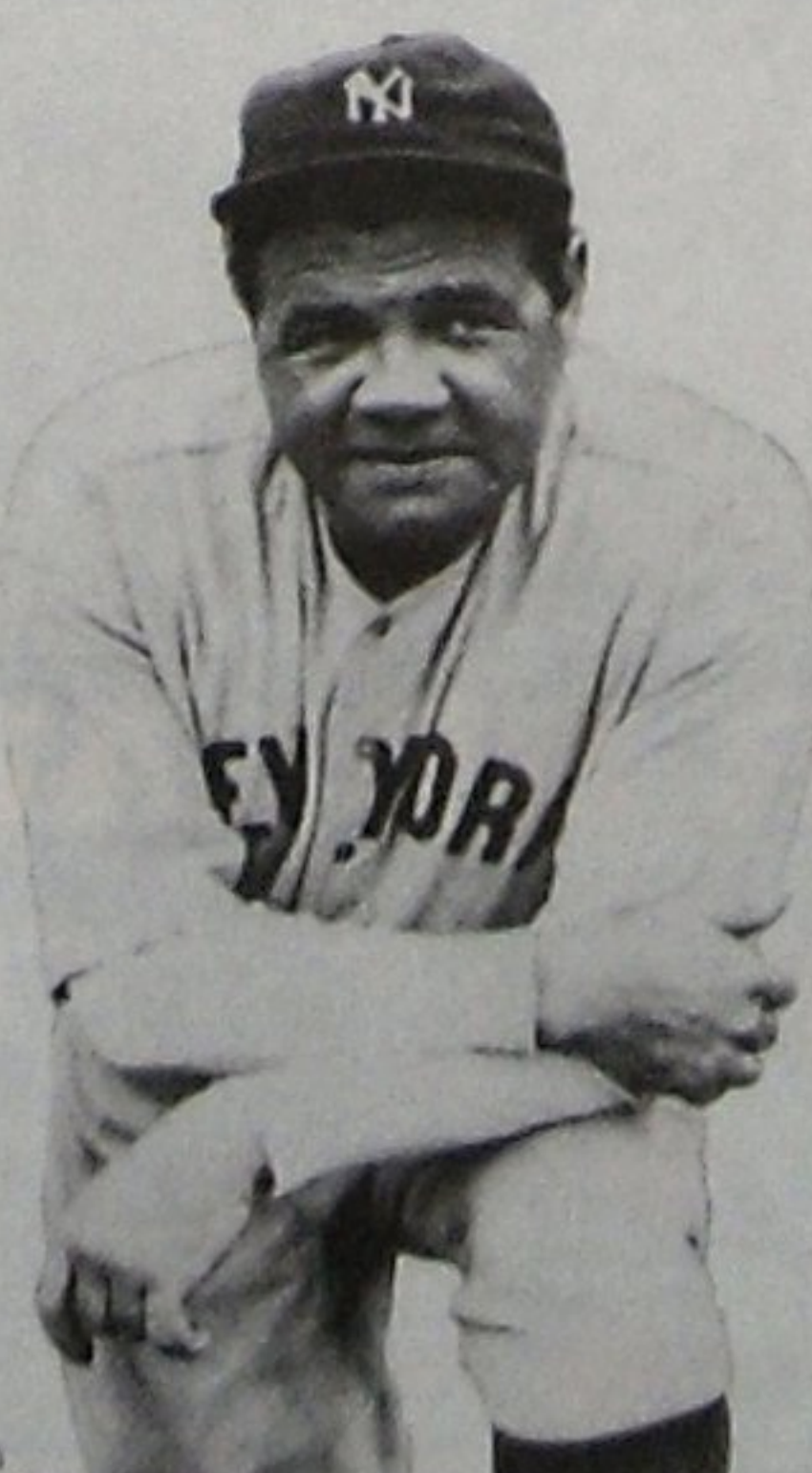
Today, few buy that argument of cause and effect. But nearly 70 years later, there will be no consensus on what caused the Depression.

Audiences are delighted, and "The Jazz Singer" plays to packed theaters throughout America.

# 1928

■ **Jan. 4:** Josef Stalin banishes about 30 opposition leaders, including Leon Trotsky, to the far reaches of the Soviet Union. In a pattern that will become familiar as Stalin consolidates his power, secret police arrest the dissenters in the middle of the night.

■ **June 18:** Amelia Earhart becomes the first woman to fly across the Atlantic — as a passenger. She and two male pilots, Wilmer Stultz and Louis Gordon, take off from Halifax, Nova Scotia, in a three-engine Fokker named Friendship and land in Carhenshore, Wales. Earhart, 29, says she wanted to show that "this type of travel is comparatively safe and ought to be developed."



# Lindbergh: Lone Eagle

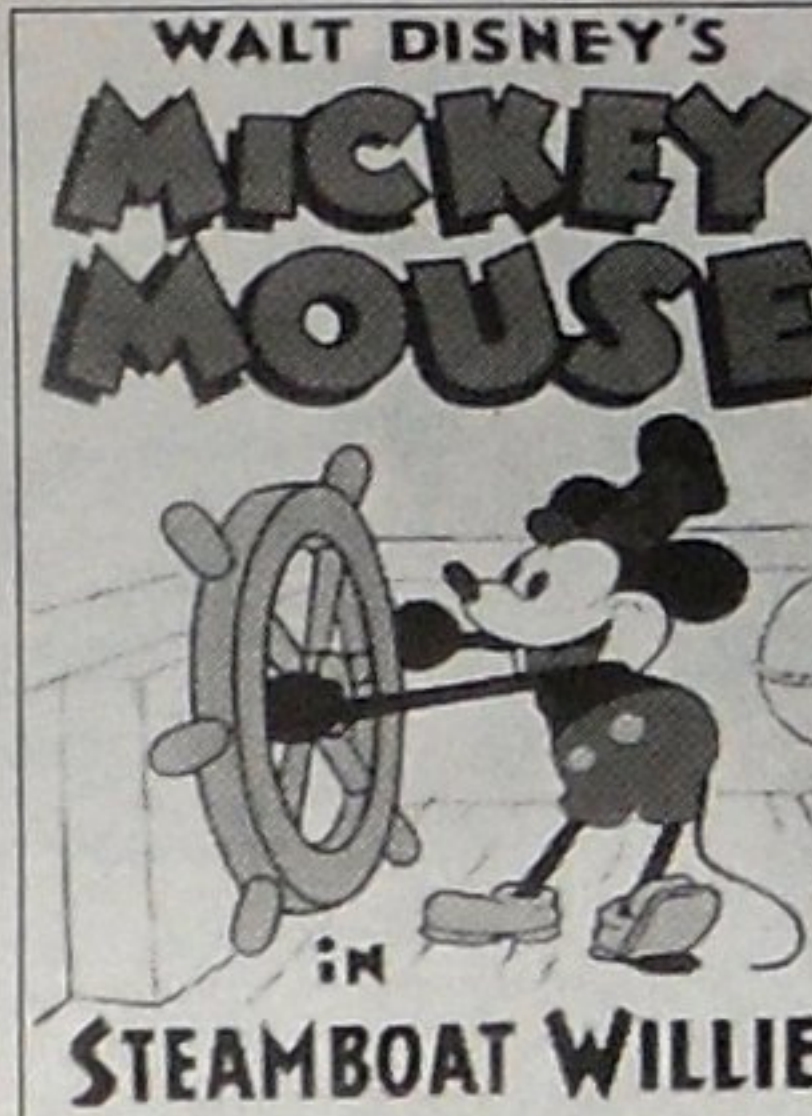
Charles Augustus Lindbergh Jr., a shy, lanky air-mail pilot, makes a journey from obscurity to worldwide celebrity within the space of two momentous days in May 1927. The 25-year-old aviator from Little Falls, Minn., flies non-stop — and alone — from New York to Paris in a silver monoplane named the Spirit of St. Louis, in honor of his financial backers from that Midwest city. His audacious flight captures the world's attention as no event has done since the signing of the Armistice that ended World War I, nine years earlier.

Lindbergh takes off from Roosevelt Field on Long Island at 7:52 a.m. on May 20 in quest of a \$25,000 prize offered by French-born New York hotelier Raymond Ortiog. He battles sleet, rain, fog and drowsiness during the 33½-hour, 3,614-mile flight to Le Bourget Aerodrome in Paris. Upon his return to the United States, Lindbergh is welcomed in New York by 4.5 million people and 1,800 tons of ticker tape. He becomes Time's first Man of the Year and even has a Texas town named after him.

■ **Aug. 27:** The United States, France, Britain, Germany and other nations sign in Paris the Kellogg-Briand treaty, which renounces war as a means of resolving international disputes. The accord is named for French Foreign Minister Aristide Briand and U.S. Secretary of State Frank Kellogg.

■ **Nov. 6:** Republican Herbert Hoover is elected 31st president by a landslide. With the campaign slogan "A chicken in every pot, a car in every garage," Hoover preaches a gospel of continued prosperity and laissez-faire economics. But within a year, the stock market will crash and the nation will spiral downward into the Great Depression.

■ **Dec. 13:** "An American in Paris," an orchestral tone poem by George Gershwin, is first performed at New York's Carnegie Hall, with Gershwin at the piano.



■ **Nov. 18:** A mischievous mouse named Mickey is introduced to the world in the animated cartoon "Steamboat Willie." Mickey Mouse is the brainchild of a 26-year-old illustrator named Walter Elias Disney and his wife, Lillian. The inspiration comes from the field mice that wandered into Disney's studio in Kansas City when he was producing advertising films before turning to cartoon animation. The mouse will become the symbol of Disney's entertainment enterprise and one of the most pervasive of American icons.

# 1929

■ **Jan. 17:** New York cartoonist Elzie Segar introduces Popeye, a one-eyed spinach-loving sailor with a corncob pipe and bulging forearms.

■ **Feb. 14:** On Valentine's Day, the nondescript building housing the S.M.C. Cartage Co. in Chicago is known throughout the nation — for inside are seven bloody bodies and a gangland mystery.

It is generally thought the bloody execution-style murders are a result of a liquor-smuggling war between gang rivals Al "Scarface" Capone and George "Bugs" Moran. One victim reportedly survives the assault but refuses to name the attackers before he dies.

No one will ever be charged in the St. Valentine's Day Massacre.

■ **June 17:** Delta Air Service begins passenger service with three six-passenger Travelaire monoplanes between Dallas and Jackson, Miss., via Shreveport and Monroe, La.

■ **June 27:** June 27: Bell Laboratories in New York demonstrates a system for the color transmission of television pictures. But the screen is the size of a postage stamp.

■ **Aug. 29:** The German dirigible Graf Zeppelin, carrying 16 passengers and a crew of 37, arrives at Lakehurst, N.J., completing the first round-the-world flight of any kind. The journey covers 19,500 miles in 21 days, 7 hours, 26 minutes.

■ **Nov. 8:** The Museum of Modern Art opens Nov. 8 in New York on the 12th floor of the Heckscher building with an exhibition of paintings by Cezanne, Gauguin, Seurat and van Gogh.

■ **Dec. 31:** Pope Pius XI condemns co-ed institutions as "harmful in Christian training."

■ **Dec. 31:** Guy Lombardo and his Royal Canadians open at New York's Roosevelt Hotel, where they will play dance music for decades. A Dec. 31 radio broadcast begins a national New Year's Eve tradition.

## BIRTHS

Paul Newman, actor, 1/26/25  
Malcolm Little (Malcolm X), Black Muslim leader, 5/19/25  
Seymour Cray, computer designer, 9/28/25  
Margaret Thatcher, British prime minister, 10/13/25  
Robert Kennedy, attorney general and senator, 11/20/25  
Chuck Berry, musician, 1/15/26  
Queen Elizabeth II, 4/21/26  
Marilyn Monroe, actress, 6/1/26  
Fidel Castro, Cuban leader, 8/13/27  
Althea Gibson, black tennis player, 8/25/27  
Maya Angelou, poet, 4/4/28

James D. Watson, biochemist, 4/6/28  
Shirley Temple, child actress and diplomat, 4/23/28  
James Brown, soul singer, 6/10/28  
Ernesto "Che" Guevara, Argentine revolutionary, 6/14/28  
Andy Warhol, pop artist, 8/6/28  
Grace Kelly, actress and princess of Monaco, 11/12/28  
Martin Luther King Jr., civil rights leader, 1/15/29  
Anne Frank, Holocaust diarist, 6/12/29  
Jacqueline Kennedy, first lady, 7/28/29  
Arnold Palmer, golfer, 9/10/29  
Yasser Arafat, Palestinian leader, 8/24/29

## PASSAGES

### Rudolph Valentino

The heart-throb and star of the 1921 silent film "The Sheik," dies Aug. 23, 1926, in New York City of a perforated ulcer at age 31. An estimated 100,000 unruly fans crowd the streets around Campbell's Funeral Parlor hoping to catch a glimpse of his bier.

### Harry Houdini

The world-famous magician and escape artist dies Oct. 31, 1926, in Detroit, at age 52 of peritonitis after a stomach injury.

### Lizzy Borden

The woman accused and then acquitted of killing her father and stepmother with an ax in 1892 dies as a recluse June 2, 1927, at 69.

### Isadora Duncan

The revolutionary dancer/choreographer dies of a broken neck Sept. 14, 1927, at age 49, when her long red scarf catches in the rear wheel of a sports car.

### Wyatt Earp

The gambler, saloonkeeper, and lawman who won fame as a gunfighter in the American West dies Jan. 13, 1929, at age 80.

## PRODUCTS

### The La-Z-Boy

While tinkering with pieces of plywood and a yardstick in 1928, Edwin Shoemaker and cousin Edward Knabusch fashion an austere, wood-slat reclining lawn chair as a new product for their Floral City Furniture Co. in Monroe, Mich. The "La-Z-Boy" will become one of the best-known names in furniture.

## MEDICINE

### Penicillin, a magic bullet

Scottish physician Alexander Fleming is intrigued by the observation that most soldiers with war wounds die of infection rather than the wounds. His research at St. Mary's Hospital Medical School in London focuses on how to kill the deadly bacteria.

Penicillin, his landmark discovery, which he reports without fanfare in September 1928, will become the wonder antibiotic of World War II. Fleming will be knighted in 1944 and will share the Nobel Prize for medicine in 1945.

## OMENS

### Seeds of the Holocaust

In 1925, Adolf Hitler publishes the first volume of "Mein Kampf" ("My Struggle"), an attempt to give an intellectual basis to his leadership of the Nazi Party. The book contains little original thought, but synthesizes ideas that prove to be incendiary in unstable postwar Germany. Hitler argues that inequality between the races is inevitable and that the unity of the "volk" (people) finds its incarnation in the "fuhrer." The racially superior German people, Hitler writes, are threatened by liberalism, Marxism and Bolshevism, all of which are manipulated behind the scenes by the Jews.

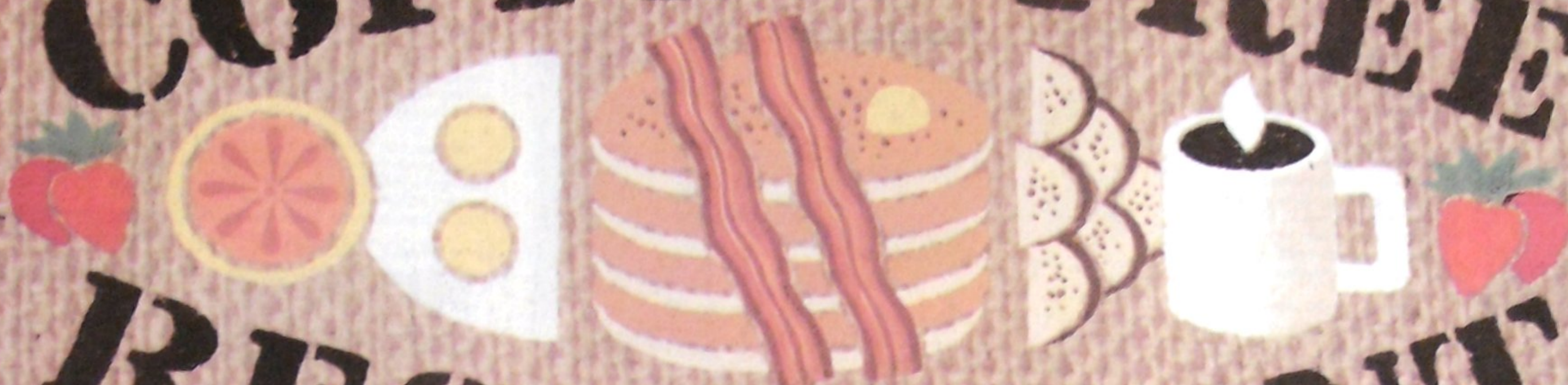
SOURCES: THE PEOPLE'S CHRONOLOGY: A YEAR-BY-YEAR RECORD OF HUMAN EVENTS FROM PREHISTORY TO THE PRESENT; GREAT EVENTS OF THE 20TH CENTURY; CHRONICLE OF AMERICA; CHRONICLE OF THE 20TH CENTURY; THE ANNALS OF AMERICA: WHAT HAPPENED WHEN; THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF WORLD FACTS & DATES

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SINCE 1965



## BREAKFAST

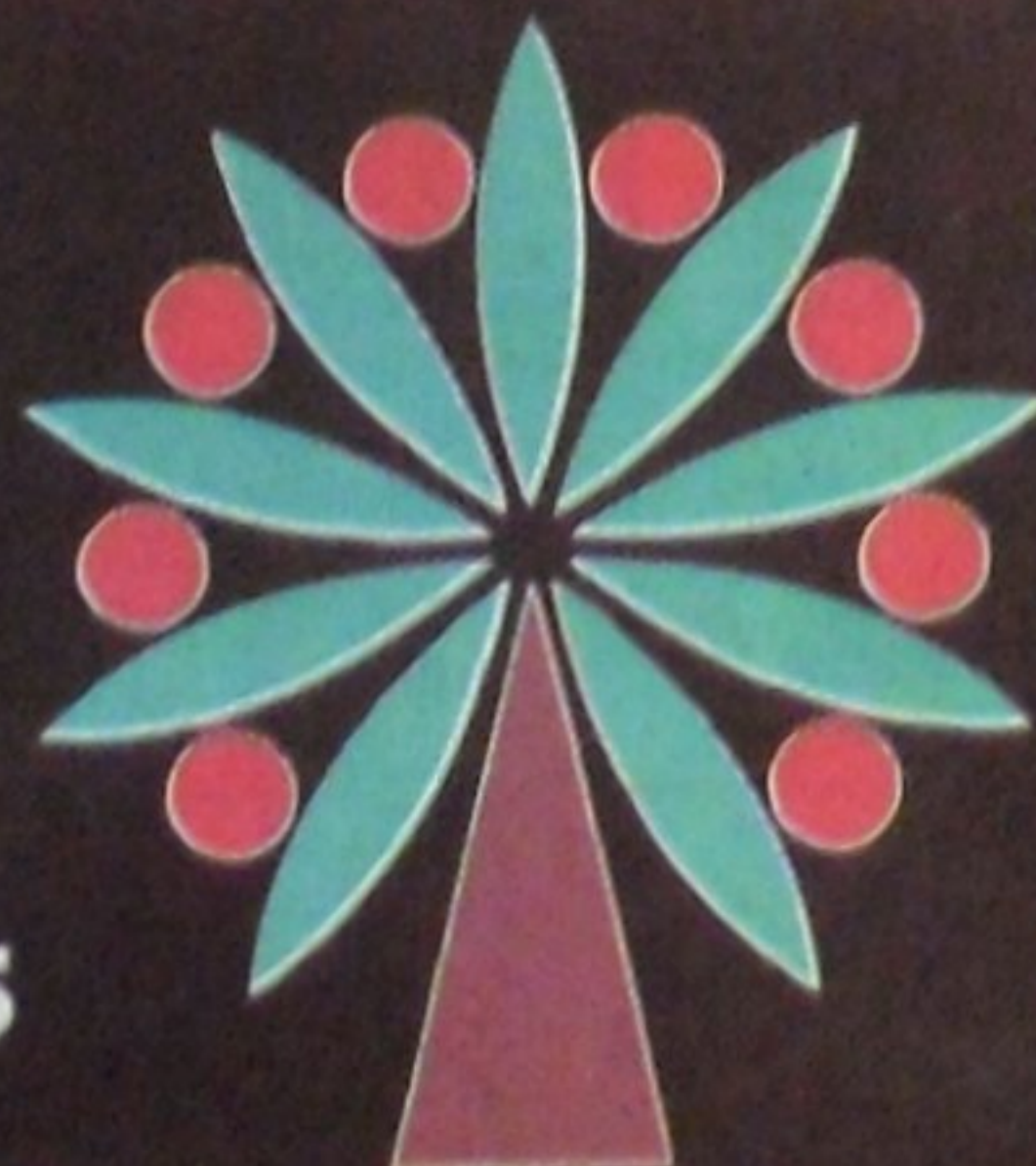
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